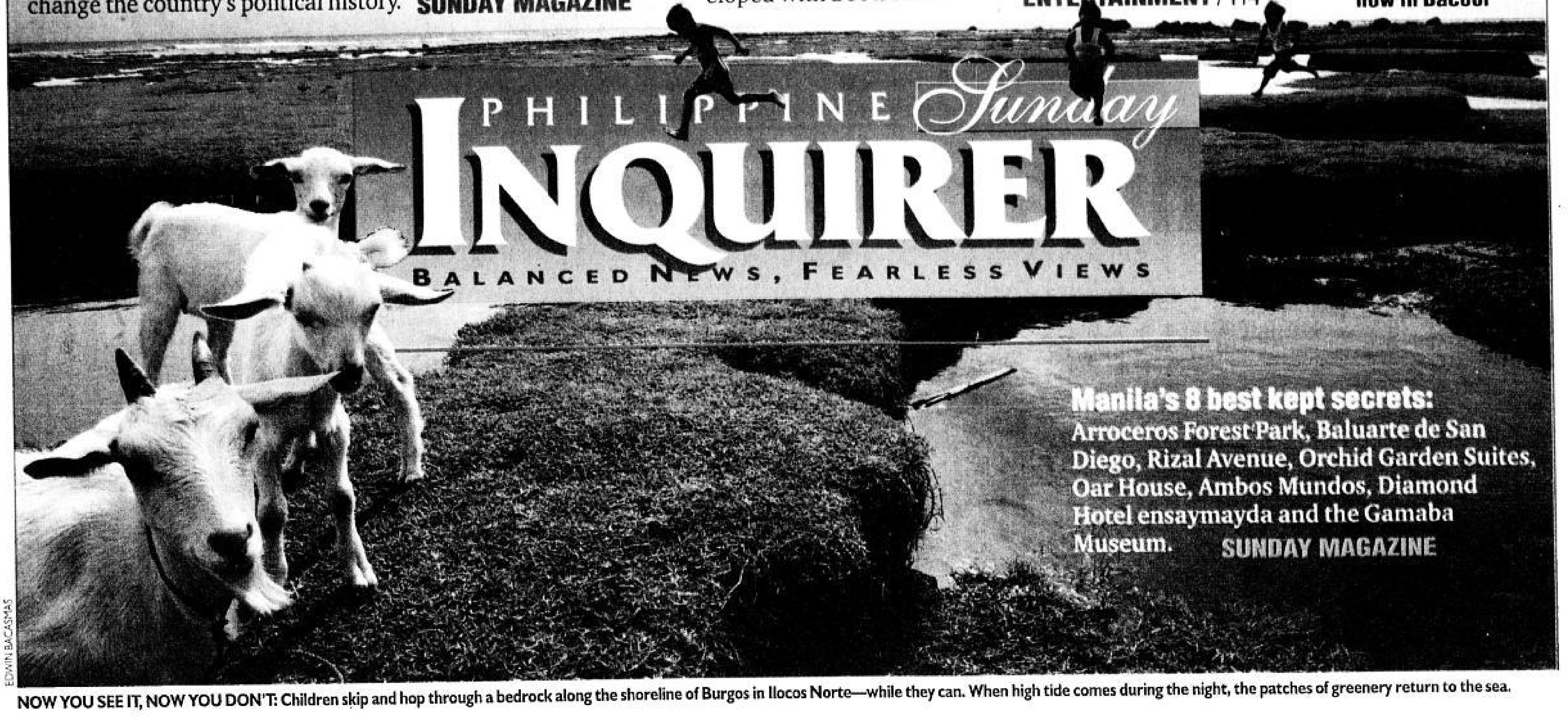
Sunday, June 24, 2007 ★★ 14 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 196 P20 website: www.inquirer.net

COURT OF LAST RESORT: As it marks its 106th year, the Supreme Court's significant rulings on 7 recent cases could change the country's political history. **SUNDAY MAGAZINE**

Yesterday: Pioneer of the Airwaves Pete Roa witnessed glory days of radio/TV and tells how he pursued/ eloped with Boots Anson **ENTERTAINMENT** / H4

JOB Market
Job Fair
Big city jobs now in Bacoor

PHILIPPINE *Sunday* INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS



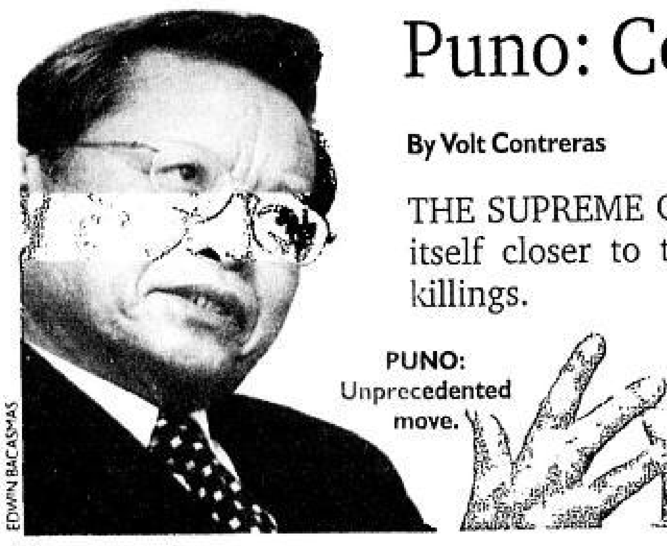
Manila's 8 best kept secrets: Arroceros Forest Park, Baluarte de San Diego, Rizal Avenue, Orchid Garden Suites, Oar House, Ambos Mundos, Diamond Hotel ensaymayda and the Gamaba Museum. **SUNDAY MAGAZINE**

EDWIN BACASMAS

NOW YOU SEE IT, NOW YOU DON'T: Children skip and hop through a bedrock along the shoreline of Burgos in Ilocos Norte—while they can. When high tide comes during the night, the patches of greenery return to the sea.

SC to call summit on slays

Puno: Command responsibility to be reviewed



EDWIN BACASMAS

PUNO: Unprecedented move.

By Volt Contreras

THE SUPREME COURT IS BENT ON BRINGING itself closer to the battle against extrajudicial killings.

Chief Justice Reynato Puno said the stage was being set for the possible rewriting of Philippine legal procedures to make these more helpful to the victims, more forceful against the suspected perpetrators, and more demanding of government agents assigned to solve such cases.

Puno said the high court would spearhead a multisectoral summit to be held next month to gather "inputs" on how the judiciary could fully use its "expanded powers" under the Constitution as a guardian of civil liberties.

"We are now planning to have this sort of congress, or a summit meeting, which would discuss the particular problem of extrajudicial killings," Puno said at a dinner with INQUIRER editors and reporters on Thursday.

He pointed out that the unsolved murders had given "a black eye to the country—and the backlash is especially on the executive department."

The Chief Justice spoke of "new rules" that could be introduced to the legal system to address the dead ends and blank walls often impeding the investi-

SC TO CALL/ A8

PPCRV: May 14 polls a 'celebration of volunteerism'

By Fe B. Zamora

THE MAY 14 ELECTION WAS A "celebration of volunteerism," a shining moment for about half a million volunteers who gave "light" to the electoral process, according to an assessment by a Church-allied election watchdog group.

But the gains were shadowed by the "scalawags in the Comelec and known operators in its ranks," according to the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV) in a post-election assessment report released yesterday.

"We honor and salute our PPCRV volunteers, even ourselves, who worked against an abundance of fear and a poverty of resources in order to safeguard the rights of each and all voters to vote freely, to have each and all votes counted and canvassed accurately, to defy guns, goons, gold in exposing cheating and unlawful manipulation at the polls," the PPCRV said in its report.

"Our nation was actually blessed with the transforming power of Elections 2007 by God for whom inertia is impossible," according to the report which was prepared by some 130 PPCRV delegates who met at a post-election national conference from June 20 to 22.

PPCRV/ A8

ANO?! ULTIMATUM NA NAMAN?! DAPAT NUON PA YAN SINIPA AT KINULONG!!

Missing Bedol gets ultimatum

THE "MISSING" MAN HAS three days to show up.

Maguindanao election supervisor Lintang Bedol, who has again made himself scarce, was given that much time by the Commission on Elections to make an appearance, or be slapped with administrative charges.

"We gave him a three-day extension period, after which we will file charges against him for infidelity in the custody of public documents," Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. said yesterday in an interview over radio station dzXL.

Task Force Maguindanao, which is looking into the supposed election irregularities in the province,

MISSING/ A6

Fisheries officials, fishermen trade places

By Amy R. Remo
Business

WHAT BETTER WAY TO UNDERSTAND another person's plight than to trade places with him.

For the whole month of May, national and regional officials of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) traded places with leaders of fisherfolk groups from various provinces.

"Through this two-way immersion program, we hope that fish growers would have a better grasp of the measures we are implementing to promote and safeguard their interests, while government officials would understand better the concerns and needs of our fisherfolk," said Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap.

Yap's unique team-building effort was preparatory to an ambitious push to reach this year's target fisheries production of 5 million metric tons.

The fisheries sector, which now accounts for 23.68 percent of total agricultural output, was the biggest gainer in the first quarter of 2007, posting 8.52-percent growth. Production value

FISHERIES/ A4

MANY-SPLENDORED JEWELS OF RP: In a culturally sensitive land like the Czech Republic known for its baroque architecture, glassware and jewelry, its First Lady Livia Klausova (center) led the celebration of the recent festival, "Many Colours of Asia," that showcased Asian art and culture in Prague. The first lady herself opened the jewelry exhibition of Filipino artist Celia Molano (left) at the city's Modern Art Museum Kampa. Molano was invited to show her collection, "Art of Adorning," by Menchu R. Salas (right), the first resident Philippine ambassador to the Czech Republic. (Coral necklace, sculptured rubies worn by Molano and earrings on this page were but a few of the jewelry pieces on exhibit.)

A respected economist, Klausova was in the Philippines as her country's official representative to the inauguration of President Arroyo in 2004. She has a strong interest in Asia, and is into the restoration of her country's architectural gems. After viewing Molano's designs, she stated, "The jewelry pieces are beautiful and refreshing to the eyes of the Czechs."

The fine craftsmanship of the internationally renowned jewelry artist highly impressed the guests, a gathering of members of the diplomatic corps and the Czech community. The French envoy's wife, Mme. Helene Fries, known for her passion of matching earrings to her clothes, immediately purchased and ordered pieces of jewelry when she learned that they were one of a kind.

Old Manila streets lose names to politicians

By Augusto de Viana
Contributor

LIKE OLD BUILDINGS AND structures, old names of streets and public places are part of historical heritage.

For a city like Manila, which is celebrating Araw ng Maynila today, many streets have been identified with the history of the place and considered integral to its character. Many historical events occurred in the city's streets, boulevards, avenues and plazas.

España Boulevard in Sampaloc district, for example, was the route of the country's biggest funeral procession, that of the martyred opposition leader Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino in 1983. From the late 1940s to the present, protesters and demonstrators walked here on their way to the gates of Malacañang. The University of Sto. Tomas was relocated on this street in 1922, and was the site of an internment camp for Allied pris-

OLD MANILA/ A4

Mothers save milk to save lives

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THEY SAVE BREAST MILK AND they save lives.

Thanks to a decade-old milk bank, newborn babies at the neonatal intensive care unit of the Philippine Children's Medical Center (PCMC), whose mothers are either sick or too far away to feed them, still get the right nutrients from the milk of other mothers.

These are not ordinary milk donors. These mothers, who also breastfeed their own babies, are sharing their milk with children not their own, out of a pure willingness to help.

Though most of them come from urban poor communities in Quezon City, the mothers are

MOTHERS/ A4

Bong Pineda files libel case vs PDI correspondent, editor in chief, publisher. **NEWS** / A5

Ricky Davao's actor-brother, wife caught in shabu den raid **NEWS** / A9

The Gospel of Silvia: Black book of secrets to make life easier for expats, by four expat women. **LIFESTYLE** / C1

Wyeth submits to BFAD recall procedures of milk formula made in its Canlubang plant from May 23 to July 26, '06. **NEWS** / A5

Nato air strike kills 25 Afghan civilians caught in a battle against the Taliban **WORLD** / A23

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Mostly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Mostly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Mostly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Mostly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Mostly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Mostly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Mostly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Mostly Cloudy
Legazpi	Mostly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Mostly Cloudy
Calapan	Mostly Cloudy	Davao	Mostly Cloudy

COMPILED BY KATE PEDROSO, INQUIRER RESEARCH/06/23/07 SOURCE PAGASA

GMA: I'm taking message of hope

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE STORY OF A NEW PHILIPPINES—A "NATION striving to be free"—will be the message of President Macapagal-Arroyo when she visits the city-state of Singapore and the tiny west-central African nation of Equatorial Guinea over the next four days.

Speaking at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport before she left for Singapore at 3 p.m. yesterday, the President said her visits had acquired a new significance in light of her government's recent strides on the economic front.

In Singapore, the President will address the two-day World Economic Forum on East Asia, after which she will meet with Singapore President S.R. Nathan, who visited the Philippines in February, and Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong.

"We shall leave behind a message of hope, of the story of a progressive Philippines, a nation striving to be free—from debt, from poverty and from the debilitating politics of discord and disunity," said Ms Arroyo, currently chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean).

She spoke of "the voice of the Philippines" being heard "not as a passive bystander but as a fierce and relentless competitor in the global and regional markets, with clear competitive advantages."

Ms Arroyo said she also intended the world to "learn first-hand about the legacy that my administration intends to build and offer at the altar of history."

The WEF will bring together 300 business and political leaders from 25 countries to discuss the theme "The Leadership Imperative for an Asian Century. "It will focus on the new generation of East Asian multinationals, the impact of cross-border investments, and the durability of East Asia's growth in the face of emerging global risks.

Stay the course

"Our state visit to Singapore and participation in the WEF comes at a time when investments are at an all-time high, and the midterm elections reflected the people's will," she said.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo troops the line prior to her departure for Singapore. At right is Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon. OPS/NIB PHOTO

The President recalled that a few months ago, she announced that Texas Instruments would make a billion-dollar investment in the Philippines. Recently, Tokyo Electric and Marubeni declared that they are also making a $4-billion investment, making it the largest Japanese investment in Philippine history, she said.

"These big investments signify that the Philippines is back and open for business. Our democracy is a proven fact; our economic growth is a work in progress. On both counts, the Filipino has shown the ability to stay the course by working hard and believing in the country's future," President Arroyo stressed.

A meeting with the Filipino community in Singapore is also planned.

After the three-day Singapore visit, she will proceed to Equatorial Guinea on June 26 on a chartered PAL flight, where she will stay for only 12 hours. She is expected back on June 27.

1st visit by RP leader

Ms Arroyo will be the first Philippine president to visit the tiny nation, a former Spanish colony that is now the third-largest oil producer in sub-Saharan Africa.

She said friendship with that country grew with the state visit to the Philippines of President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo in May 2006.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said a major joint venture agreement would be finalized during the visit between the Philippine National Oil Co. and its Equatorial Guinea counterpart for PNOC to acquire a major stake in oil drilling in the African country.

"This is very significant because Equatorial Guinea is a major producer of oil, even bigger than Brunei as far as oil production is concerned. It's also an important visit because we have quite a number of expatriates, about 2,500," Bunye said. *With a report from Daxim L. Lucas*

BIR chief's firing painful but necessary, says Teves

By Michelle V. Remo

FINANCE SECRETARY MARGARITO Teves yesterday said the relief of Bureau of Internal Revenue Commissioner Jose Mario Buñag was a painful but necessary step to arrest shortfalls in revenue collection.

"It is time to act now to stem the bleeding. As much as we realize how painful a revamp is, there is nothing personal in the process. We have no choice but to undertake what needs to be immediately done," Teves said in a statement.

Breaking his silence over Buñag's sacking, Teves said the government needed to deliver vital infrastructure and social services to the public, and so changes had to be made at the BIR to ensure the government's revenue goals were met.

After Malacañang announced last week it was letting go of Buñag, the latter said the reason for the shortfall was the setting of unrealistic collection targets.

He noted that if compared to last year's target, BIR collections so far this year had in fact risen.

He said the BIR's targets were based on macroeconomic assumptions that were unrealized, including the lower-than-expected inflation rate and lower-than-projected interest rates.

Bunag said the lower inflation rate meant the BIR could not collect as much in value-added taxes as expected. The lower interest rate, he added, meant that the BIR could not generate the expected amount of taxes on bank deposits.

But Teves said the slowdown in inflation and the low interest rates were the only macroeconomic factors that had a negative effect on tax collection. Teves stressed that there were other economic factors that should have positively affected tax collection.

Teves said the BIR's quarterly tax collection targets were based on the assumption that the economy would grow by only 6.1 percent. But the economic growth in the first quarter actually reached 6.9 percent.

Higher economic growth meant there had been more business activities that could have helped boost tax collection.

Teves also cited the higher-than-expected bank deposits and investments. If the effects of unrealized macroeconomic assumptions were combined, the net effect should have been a higher-than-target tax collection in the first quarter.

The BIR was tasked to collect P155.2-billion in the first quarter, but turned in only P143.1 billion or a shortfall of P12.1 billion.

The Department of Finance said the BIR's shortfall further ballooned to P28.6 billion as of May. In January to May, the BIR was tasked to collect P314.208 billion, but generated only P285.587 billion.

EU probers give PNP pointers on solving activists' killings

IMPROVE THE TECHNICAL AND forensic capabilities of the police, widen their training and sufficiently protect witnesses to the extrajudicial killings.

These were the pieces of advice given to the Philippine National Police (PNP) by a European Union mission currently investigating the killings of leftist activists and farmers in the country.

Director Geary Barias, head of the PNP Directorate for Investigation and Detective Management (DIDM), said police officials met with members of the mission Friday night.

Barias said he told the mission the PNP Crime Laboratory needed to improve its ballistic analysis technology so as not to have to rely heavily on the testimonies of witnesses in murder cases.

"There are some areas of the country where we lack laboratory facilities to conduct proper forensic investigations of cases. Although our first responders (to crime scenes) are adequately trained, on some occasions, procedures in crime scene processing are not followed because of lack of equipment and laboratory facilities," Barias said.

In return, he said, the mission pointed out the need for interagency training of police investigators and prosecutors, especially in slay cases involving militants, journalists and government officials. Members of the mission said the training would prompt prosecutors and investigators to work together even during the early stages of the crime.

The EU mission also said the government had to strengthen its Witness Protection Program by making sure that witness protection was being performed by well-trained and fully-equipped security personnel.

The mission, Barias said, would bring up the issues in its recommendations to the European Parliament.

For his part, PNP Director General Oscar Calderon welcomed the prospect of technical help from the EU stemming from the mission.

"The PNP welcomes this gesture of support by the European Union, in the spirit of international cooperation, to assist the PNP in improving our law enforcement and investigative capability as a component of our justice system," Calderon said.

The mission is headed by EU Ambassador Alistair MacDonald. Its members are Swedish policeman and forensics expert Bo Astrom, Finnish human rights law professor Juhani Kortteinen, British lawyer Rory Field, German human rights lawyer Daniel. Beck, and European Commission members Daniele Dal Molin and Paul Hardy. *Alcuin Papa*

PRETTY MISSES IN A ROW

Zephorah Mayon (center) was proclaimed 2007 Mutya ng Pilipinas Asia-Pacific International in coronation rites held Friday night at the Olongapo Convention Center in Olongapo City. Her court is composed of (from left) Jacquilyn Rodriguez, third runner-up; Iris Frances Tan, first runner-up; Anna Marie Morelos, Ms Tourism International, and Ricamarie Ann Taylor, second runner-up. RUDY ESPERAS

'Cavaliers' urged to back Trillanes plan

By Alcuin Papa

AFTER THEY FOUND AN UNLIKEly ally in Senator-elect Antonio Trillanes IV, militant groups are now asking other cavaliers of the Philippine Military Academy in the Senate to support Trillanes' call for the investigation of the extrajudicial killings throughout the country.

Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) secretary general Renato Reyes challenged the other members of the emerging Cavaliers Club in the Senate to get to the bottom of the killings.

"We are urging the so-called Cavaliers Club in the Senate to take on the probe of extrajudicial killings. Senators Rodolfo Biazon, Panfilo Lacson and Gregorio Honasan also have networks within the military that could shed light on the killings and abductions," Reyes said in a statement.

Bayan earlier welcomed Trillanes' plan to investigate the killings possibly with assistance from at least two active generals.

Reyes noted that this was the first time that men in uniform were openly condemning and opposing the policy of killing unarmed activists.

"The main thrust of the investigation should be the unmasking of the policy makers responsible for the deaths and disappearances of hundreds of unarmed activists. We are willing to cooperate in the investigations in this respect," he said.

Reyes said Bayan conveyed its support for Trillanes' call for a Senate investigation during the latter's vic tory party at Fort Bonifacio earlier this month.

"The initiative to investigate the killings is made urgent by the continuing murders and abductions of activists. The senator seems to have an idea where to start his probe and that is with the government-sponsored death squads," he said.

Earlier, Trillanes revealed the existence of "death squads" or composite units of different intelligence operatives from the various services of the Armed Forces. These units are said to operate "outside the chain of command" but are being directed at the highest levels.

Subic dev't turning tillers, fishers to factory workers

By Ansbert Joaquin
Inquirer Central Luzon

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—A PROUD President Macapagal-Arroyo on Friday said the development of this freeport, particularly with one of the world's largest shipyards being built by a Korean company, has impressed her greatly.

Built at one of the deepest portions of Subic Bay, the shipbuilding facility of Hanjin Heavy Industries Corp. Ltd. (HHIC) at the Redondo Peninsula here has generated employment for about 10,000 workers from the outlying fishing and farming communities in Zambales, Bataan and Olongapo City.

The figure is dramatically up from the 2,400 workers that Hanjin employed when it started activities here last year.

"We are impressed by the surge of development happening here to create jobs and bring prosperity to the people," Ms Arroyo said during the inauguration Friday of the Subic-Cawag-Balaybay Road.

The P650-million, 16.15-km road connects the Hanjin shipyard to a community of farmers and fishermen "now slowly being converted into a community of factory workers."

"Congratulations to our fishermen, farmers and formerly plain housewives who are now expert workers," Ms Arroyo told about 100 Hanjin executives, local officials and workers here.

The road is a legacy of outgoing Gov. Vicente Magsaysay to the people of Zambales, she said.

"We are delivering to you a world-class road leading to a world-class ship-building facility," Magsaysay, who ran but lost in the recent senatorial race, told the President.

The access road is the fulfillment of the memorandum of understanding between the Department of Public Works and Highways, the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority and HHIC.

"[It] is an expression of the national government's commitment to support the investment project of the HHIC that will not only help provide easy access for manpower and construction materials for the Hanjin plant but will also serve as an important tool to help alleviate unemployment, particularly in the nearby communities," SBMA Administrator Armand Arreza said.

The road, Ms Arroyo said, was financed with funds generated by the value-added tax (VAT).

"We needed to spend P650 million, value-added taxes went to this road," she said.

"The difficult and politically unpopular steps we took to raise taxes are bearing fruit. We are now making significant investment in people and infrastructure.

"This includes billions of pesos in programs to promote human capital like education, health care, social services and training like the welders' training center that we put up here in Subic."

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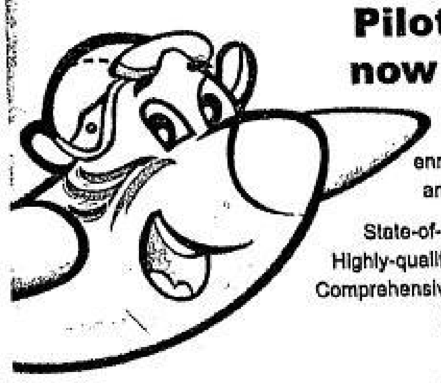

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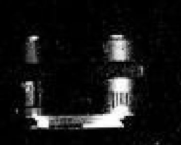

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MILK OF KINDNESS: Donors, mostly from the urban poor in Quezon City, voluntarily give their milk at the Philippine Children's Medical Center for babies whose mothers are either sick or too far away to feed them. JOAN BONDOC

Mothers save milk to save lives

From page A1

not paid, project head Dr. Gloria Ramirez told the INQUIRER.

Magic ingredients

The project was born out of necessity and concern.

As chair of the breastfeeding committee of the hospital, Ramirez knew that only breast milk could provide the complete set of "magic ingredients" to ensure the optimal development of newborn babies. The problem was that many newborns at the hospital's intensive care unit had mothers who were either sick, could not breastfeed, or could not regularly visit the hospital because of financial difficulties.

"I said we had to find a way," Ramirez said.

Ramirez and her team went to Barangay Central, just across the hospital, to look for lactating mothers who could donate excess milk. Several mothers were willing and the Alay Gatas Community Program was born. In 1997, it won national recognition as a proactive community project.

These mothers still had to cook meals, wash dishes and do the laundry, among other chores, but they all found time to give. "They were so motivated to give," Ramirez recalled. What she saw became an inspiration.

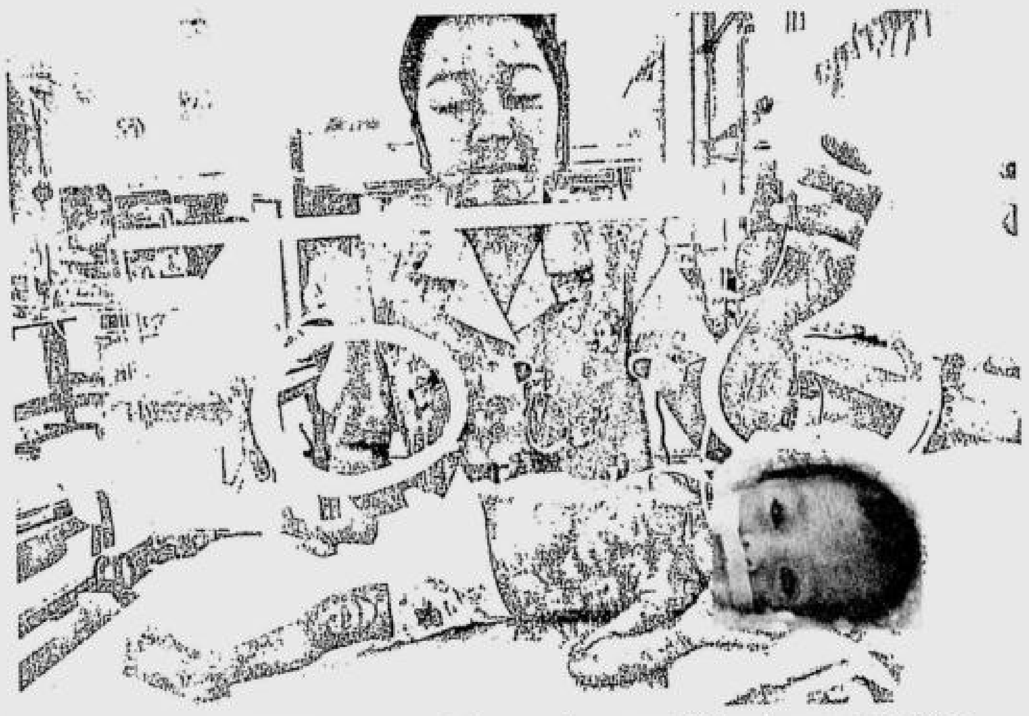
She made sure the stored breast milk was safe. "Donors are not only screened, interviewed and subjected to medical tests. They are also taught proper ways of getting milk."

Most use manual pumping, which they then put in a freezer at the barangay health center, before bringing it to PCMC the moment they have time.

The frozen milk, once brought to PCMC, is pasteurized, and frozen again. When needed, it is defrosted and given to the babies using droppers.

Locally developed technology

Ramirez and several teams of scientists have perfected the pasteurization and storage process over the past eight years, adjusting the temperature and the procedure duration to come up with the precise formula to kill viruses and bacteria, while still preserving all the nutrients.



PRIMARY BENEFICIARIES are the newly-born at the neonatal intensive care unit of the Philippine Children's Medical Center. JOAN BONDOC

The award-wining pasteurizer that PCMC is now using is controlled by a microprocessor. Ramirez said it is so precise that she has already applied for a patent, hoping it could be produced commercially for other hospitals in the future.

Frozen breast milk lasts up to six months, Ramirez also said.

"I hope this will be used not only in hospitals, but will also be used by mothers who have to go to work," Ramirez said.

So far, only PCMC has a pasteurizer for breast milk, she said. The Philippine General Hospital has long been working on establishing its own human milk bank, but the equipment is not yet available, according to PGH spokesperson Michael Tee.

Formula-free hospitals

The operation of the breast milk bank at the PCMC is in recognition of the importance of exclusive breastfeeding for newborn babies, as recommended by numerous health organizations, amid the aggressive media campaign of multinational companies selling breast milk substitutes.

Health undersecretary Alexander Padilla said he was supporting efforts to build human milk banks.

"This is a way to eliminate the use of infant formula in all hospitals," he told the INQUIRER.

Ramirez said pasteurized breast milk is far superior to commercial milk.

Advocate-donors

One donor, 31-year-old mother of two Cherie Anne Chua, says sharing breast milk is something she holds close to her heart.

Unlike most of the donors, she belongs to an affluent family. It was she who sought out PCMC to share her breast milk.

"I had excess milk. I did not want to waste it. My cousin, who is a pediatrician, told me about the milk bank at the PCMC. So I went there," Chua said.

She first donated milk when she gave birth to her first child in 2005. She has just given birth to her second child and she is back to donating milk again.

She said she felt for mothers coming from poor families who could not immediately provide milk for their own babies, when "breast milk is really important for our babies."

Not only is she donating breast milk to the PCMC, she is also encouraging her friends to breastfeed their babies and donate their excess milk.

So when an employee of her husband's manufacturing company was having problems breastfeeding her baby because of work stress, it was Chua who asked a friend, who had just given birth, to share her excess milk.

Appeal for more donors

Ramirez said a mother produces more milk if more is pumped from her breasts. "What we tell our donors is to breastfeed their children first and pump after (for the excess milk)," she said.

Chua goes to PCMC to bring her excess milk every other day. Her husband drives her to the hospital. "I am happy that I am able to feed other babies," she said.

Donors do not get to see the babies they give milk to. "The donated milk is pooled and stored after being pasteurized in a huge refrigerator.

Ramirez has a bigger dream. To fulfill this ambitious expansion project, Ramirez said they also need more donors.

She is appealing to the hearts of other mothers: "No matter who you are, you have something precious to give." Lactating mothers can visit her office at the PCMC on Quezon Avenue corner Agham Road, Quezon City (Tel. No. 924-6601 local 356).

BANK DEPOSITS: Midwife Nenita Lorro shows samples of breast milk preserved in a medical freezer. JOAN BONDOC

Fisheries officials, fishermen trade places

From page A1

logged in at P43.67 billion, up 10.3 percent from P39.58 billion in the same period last year.

Understanding, communication

Yap hopes the effort at bridging understanding and communication among fishery stakeholders would put more verve into the effort to expand ocean farms or mariculture parks and fish cages; accelerate aquaculture projects in rural areas; help establish more seaweed processing plants, and encourage the building of more *bangus* and *tilapia* central and satellite hatcheries.

Under the immersion program, the "fisherfolk directors" chosen by their respective organizations, assumed the role of BFAR directors in the implementation and dissemination of key programs of the agency. The limitation set was that decisions and actions they could take would be "nonpolicy determining" and would not affect government accounting rules and procedures.

In a statement, Yap said the exercise hoped to deepen their understanding of government programs and policies, including efforts to open up new markets here and abroad for small farm stakeholders.

On the other hand, regular BFAR directors immersed themselves in the fishing communities during the same period within their respective areas of jurisdiction.

Hopefully they will learn more about the problems encountered by fisherfolk in dealing with government bureaucracy, rising costs, and peace and order concerns, among others—and do more to help them.

Old ...

From page A1

oners during World War II.

España was able to retain its name reportedly because of a clause in the donation agreement between the City of Manila and the landowners who donated the land that the street as well as adjoining ones would be named after the Iberian country and its provinces. Otherwise, the land would revert back to the owners, the Sulucan Development Co. owned by the De la Riva family.

'Bigoted nationalism'

Unfortunately, many of our old street names have been changed. The country's politicians, out of what the historian Gregorio Zaide once called "bigoted nationalism and jingoism," have been indiscriminately renaming streets, roads, avenues and boulevards. Renaming also appears to promote political and personal agendas as some public places have been renamed after politicians and public officials.

The result is a country that is erasing its historical heritage.

In Manila, the renaming of streets has been done often in complete disregard of their historical significance.

Take the historic Manila streets like the Escolta and Dasmariñas in Binondo. The name Escolta was inspired by the Spanish word "*escortar*," meaning to escort. The British commanding general passed through this street under heavy escort on his way to hand over Manila back to the Spaniards after Britain's 20-month occupation of the city in 1762 to 1764.

Dasmariñas is named after the Spanish governor-general Luis Perez Dasmariñas who, after buying the fiefdom (encomienda) of Binondo, promptly donated to the Dominican friars a site for a church and parish house, established a mission for married Christianized Chinese and a hospital on what is now Plaza Cervantes.

Occupation, virtues

Other famous Manila streets are so named because of their association with certain objects. Tayuman Street in the district of Tondo was where the *tayum* plant was once abundant. Antipolo Street was where a *tipolo* tree once grew.

Other streets were named because of the trades and occupations that were once practiced there. Thus, Anloague was once a place of carpenters; Fundidor, the place of the foundry workers; Jaboneros, the place of the soap makers; Panaderos, the place of the bakers; and Labanderos, the place of the laundrymen.

Arroceros on the south bank of the Pasig River was where the rice warehouses were located. Aduana was where the Spanish customs house once stood. There used to be a street in Binondo called Fumadores. This was the street were opium joints were allowed by the Spanish colonial authorities, opium smoking being legally confined only to the Chinese.

Some streets in Sampaloc extolled the civic and moral virtues. Among these were Economia, meaning thrift and Trabajo, industry. The two streets adjoined each other and the location of the Trabajo Market in their midst made the names very appropriate. They seemed to have been meant to inspire those who were earning a living in the area.

Other streets similarly named are Lealtad, loyalty; Honradez, honesty; Firmeza, firmness or strength and Constancia, constancy.

Rizal reference

Many Manila street names have reference to the national hero, Jose Rizal. These are mostly located in Sampaloc. Among these are Blumentritt, after Dr. Ferdinand Blumentritt, the Austrian professor and the hero's close friend and intellectual kin who carried out a lengthy correspondence with him; Calamba, Rizal's birthplace; P. Leoncio remembers his godfather, the parish priest who baptized him; Craig, after Austin Craig, one of his biographers; Retiro, which was inspired by his poem "Mi Retiro" which referred to his place of exile in Dapitan. A street at the back of the University of Sto. Tomas campus is also named Dapitan.

Other names refer to characters in Rizal's novels, among them Basilio, Simoun, Sisa and Crisostomo. Two streets are named after his pen names, Laong Laan and Dimasalang.

Some streets like Raon, Camba, Urbiztondo, Lardizabal and Gandara were named after Spanish governor-generals while others like Taft, Harrison and Forbes were named after American ones. In the Malate district, some streets were named after the states of the United States. One street was named after Isaac Peral, the inventor of a submersible. It has been renamed United Nations Avenue.

Azcarraga to Recto

Architect Juan F. Nakpil, later named National Artist, argued against changing the name of Azcarraga Street to Claro M. Recto Avenue in 1961.

"If we keep changing the names of our streets, there may come a time we may not be able to recognize our city anymore," he lamented at one of the meetings of the National Historical Commission which deliberated on the issue. Nakpil was a member of the NHC board.

Among the arguments put forward for renaming Azcarraga was that the street was named after a Spaniard. Actually, Azcarraga was the name of two brothers, Marcelo and Manuel, who were born of Spanish parents in the Philippines which, by definition, made them Filipino. Of the two brothers, Marcelo distinguished himself in Spain, rising to become minister of war and twice prime minister. Filipinos should be proud of Azcarraga because he was a native of the Philippines who held one of the highest offices in Spain.

No consultations with NHI

Many of the street names of the city of Manila have been renamed even without consultation with the National Historical Institute, contrary to the provisions of the Local Government Code. Some of these include Arroceros which is now Mayor Antonio Villegas Street; Aduana, now Andres Soriano Jr. Street; Pepin, now Marzan Street and Constancia now Cristobal Street.

But the renaming of the streets began long before the enactment of the Local Government Code. P. Leoncio is now Quintos, Sr.; Economia is now Vicente G. Cruz; Trabajo is now Manuel de la Fuente, etc. All of these new names are those of local politicians.

By changing the names of the country's historic streets, we are erasing an important part of our heritage. The indiscriminate renaming of streets and other public places must stop if we are to protect our heritage. Our political authorities should consider restoring the old but historic names. *(The author is chief of the of the research, publications and heraldry division of the National Historical Institute.)*

IN THE KNOW

EVEN THOUGH MANILA IS known to have been a thriving settlement before the arrival of the Spanish colonizers, Araw ng Maynila is celebrated on June 24 to commemorate the city's proclamation in 1571 as the capital of the Spanish colonial administration in the Philippines.

The proclamation came a year after the forces of the ruler of Manila, Rajah Sulayman, were defeated by Spanish troops under Martin de Goiti in what is known as the first Battle for Manila.

On May 16, 1571, Miguel Lopez de Legazpi arrived in Manila from Panay with hundreds of Visayan warriors. By then, Sulayman and his uncles, Rajah Matanda and Rajah Lakandula, had ceased to resist Spanish occupation.

On June 24, 1571, Manila was proclaimed the capital of Spain in the Philippines and a government was established in the city.

In 1574, the year an attack by the Chinese warlord Limahong was repulsed, the title "Distinguished and Ever Loyal City" was conferred on Manila by Spanish royal decree.

It was Manila Mayor Arsenio Lacson who, in 1958, declared June 24 as the city's foundation day. The move was criticized by some who claimed the city already existed long before Legazpi's arrival.

In the book "Almanac for Manileños," the historian Quijano de Manila said: "Lacson acted on Faustian man's obsession with definite historical data; an invented 'nationalist' date to mark the foundation of pre-1571 Manila would be pure myth-making."

In 1963, Manila Mayor Antonio Villegas responded to the criticism by changing the name of the celebration from "Foundation Day" to "Araw ng Maynila." *INQUIRER Research*

BFAD insists formula 'risky'; Wyeth Phils. starts recall

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE BUREAU OF FOOD AND DRUGS YESterday maintained that the affected cans and boxes of infant formula manufactured by Wyeth posed a "potential risk" after it finally released a public health advisory on the affected milk products.

This developed as Wyeth Philippines submitted on Friday to the BFAD its proposed recall plan for the affected milk products which were manufactured at its Canlubang plant between May 23, 2006, and July 26, 2006.

"If the product that consumers hold was produced within those dates and carries a relevant lot number, then parents should take that product to a Wyeth authorized distributor or retailer where it will be replaced," said Dr. Nerissa Calimon, medical director of Wyeth Philippines.

The recall covers the following brands: Bonna, Bonamil, Bonakid, Promil, Promil Gold, Progress Gold and Promil Kid.

"The meaning of a product recall is that there is a risk," BFAD deputy director Joshua Ramos told the INQUIRER, reacting to Wyeth's statement that while its milk cans developed rust, the contents remained safe.

Health Undersecretary Alexander Padilla said an investigation was ongoing to determine if Wyeth would be liable for sanctions.

In its public health advisory posted on its website, BFAD said "Consumers who purchased any of the said products are advised to return the affected products to Wyeth Philippines." It listed the alphanumeric codes of the 172 affected production batches in its advisory, which was signed by BFAD Director Leticia Gutierrez.

BFAD also advised consumers who observe any unusual incident as a consequence of consuming the subject goods to immediately consult a physician and to report the incident to BFAD.

Wyeth said the corresponding lot numbers of the affected products will be communicated via the media beginning today.

Consumers are requested to check the bottom of the can or the top of the box for the date of manufacture and lot number.

Consumers can call the Wyeth Careline at 81-WYETH (81-99384) or the toll-free number 1800-10884-2222 for assistance.

'Bong' Pineda sues Inquirer for libel

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—RODOLFO "Bong" Pineda, the husband of defeated Pampanga gubernatorial candidate Lilia Pineda, has sued INQUIRER publisher Isagani Yambot, editor in chief Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc and Central Luzon correspondent Tonette Orejas for libel.

Claiming the daily had made "defamatory and malicious imputations and remarks" against him, Pineda is seeking P5 million in damages from the respondents.

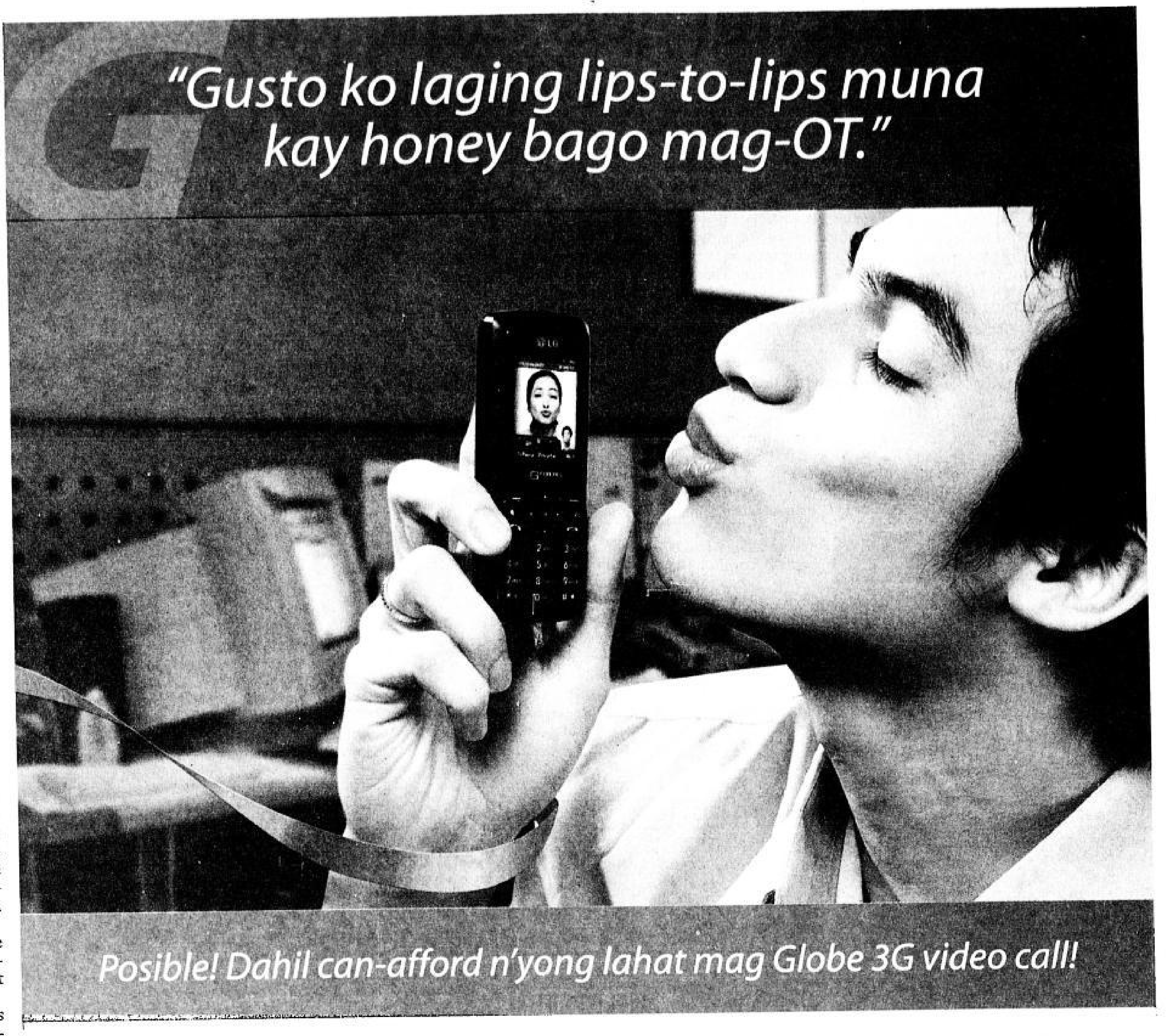
Pineda's complaint, which his lawyer filed in the office of the provincial prosecutor here on June 4, stemmed from a story published on Page 1 of the INQUIRER's May 29 issue written by Orejas titled, "Panlilio poll leader killed; vendetta seen."

The story narrated the May 28 murder of Guagua Barangay Captain Mario "Jomar" Nulud, who was a supporter and friend of Fr. Eddie Panlilio, the governor-elect of Pampanga. Panlilio defeated Pineda's wife in the gubernatorial race.

In the complaint, Pineda branded as "defamatory and malicious" the reference in the story to his "alleged political vendetta" and his being called an "alleged jueteng lord."

He also called attention to a part of the story which said, "[Nulud] was killed after reports circulated that Pineda had been calling several barangay captains to meetings to make them explain where they spent the money he had given them and why they failed to make Lilia win."

The portions he also claimed were libelous were the phrases that said he had "built a reputation of being a political kingmaker in Pampanga," that he had "funded the campaigns of local, as well as national candidates" and that he had "supposed political clout." *Inquirer Central Luzon*



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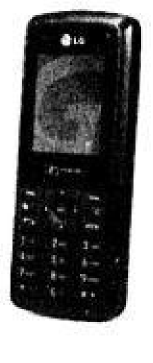

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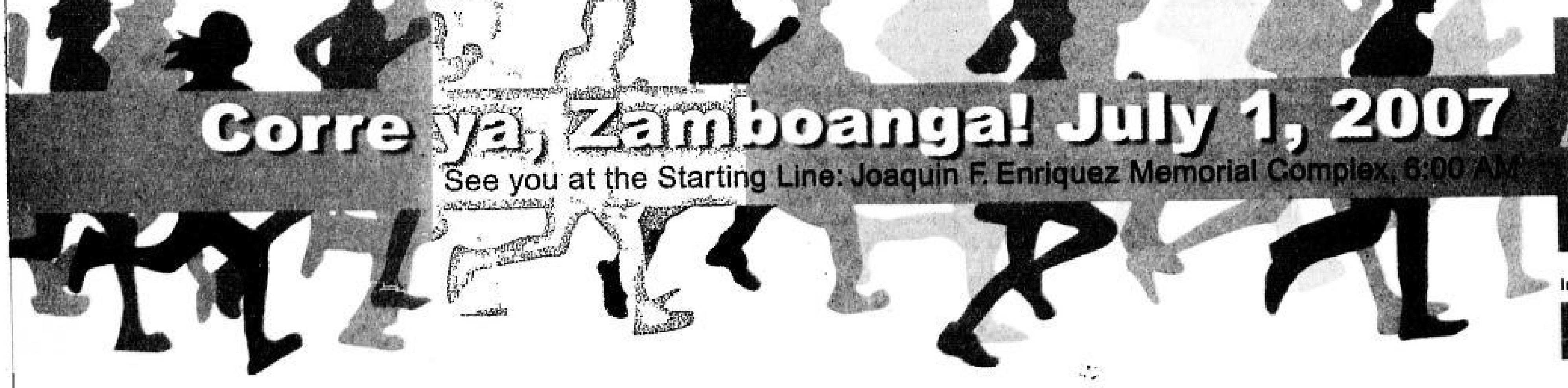

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Missing Bedol gets ultimatum

From page A1

will issue the show-cause order against Bedol tomorrow.

If the man fails to respond, the charge of infidelity will be pursued, said task force head Commissioner Nicodemo Ferrer.

This is the second time that Bedol has shied away from public view since the May 14 elections. On Friday, Ferrer complained that Bedol was again nowhere to be found.

More than a month after the fact, Bedol has yet to explain the alleged theft of the original copies of the municipal certificates of canvass (CoCs) that he said he had been keeping in his office.

The documents are supposed to prove the 12-0 sweep of the administration's Team Unity (TU) in Maguindanao.

As election supervisor of Maguindanao, Bedol chairs the board of canvassers that would tabulate the results reflected in the CoCs from its 22 municipalities.

He last showed up at the Comelec office in Manila early this month, claiming ignorance of the summonses from the poll body.

No forcible entry

The Comelec en banc received on Friday the findings of the task force.

"The investigation showed no signs of forcible entry," Abalos said on radio. "Bedol admitted he had failed to lock the door of his office, so he'll be charged with infidelity."

The provincial CoC from Maguindanao has shown all TU candidates making it to the winning circle of 12, and 19 other candidates, including six from the Genuine Opposition (GO), receiving no votes at all.

The Comelec has pronounced this "statistically improbable," and even considered declaring a failure of elections in the province.

Abalos said the municipal election officers who showed up before the Comelec fact-finding team in General Santos City last Wednesday testified that all their first copies of municipal CoCs were in Bedol's custody.

They submitted the second or third copies of the CoCs still in their possession.

The special provincial board of canvassers will convene in Maguindanao's capital Shariff Aguak to make a retabulation of the results based on the new set of CoCs, which, according to the Comelec, appeared to be genuine.

Zubiri or Pimentel

The Maguindanao results will determine who between TU's Juan Miguel Zubiri and GO's Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III is the 12th winning senator.

Meanwhile, however, Pimentel has sued the Comelec before the Supreme Court and sought the exclusion of the Maguindanao results.

Pimentel led Zubiri by over 110,000 votes in the last Comelec tally, but the results from Maguindanao could topple him from the 12th spot.

Abalos said the TU and GO lawyers could question the municipal CoCs before the board of canvassers.

But opposition lawyer Leila de Lima said on Friday that according to her "highly reliable source," Zubiri did not have enough votes in the "real" municipal CoCs to overtake Pimentel.

"Overall, Zubiri would only have a lead of 32,000 to 40,000 over Koko, which would not be enough to dislodge Koko," she said.

Bedol might squeal

It was a choice between sacrificing Bedol or not, De Lima said in explaining to the INQUIRER why allegedly "manufactured" CoCs from Maguindanao were submitted to the Comelec.

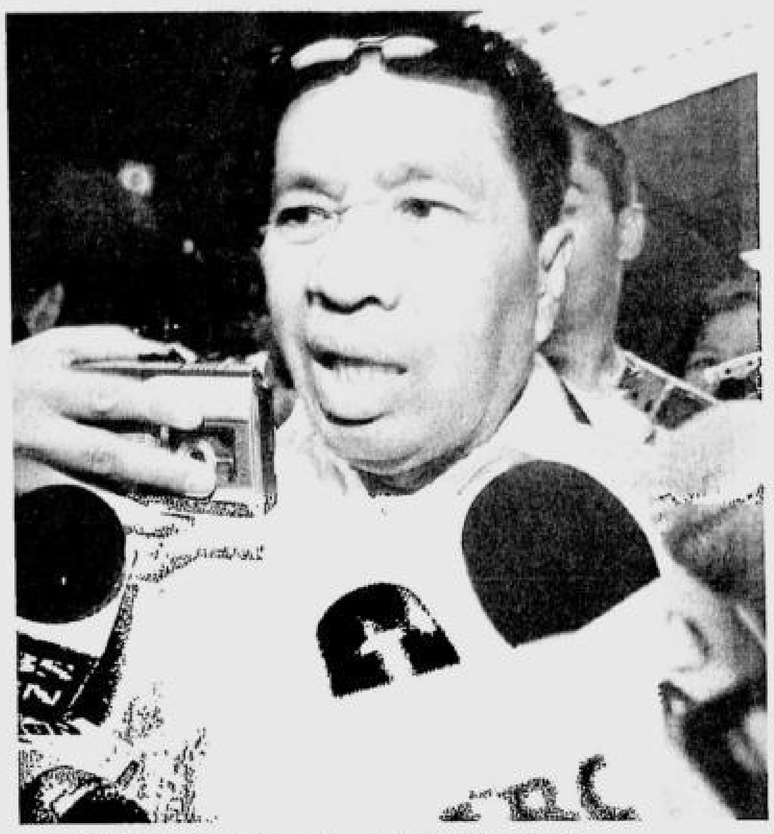
The lawyer said her source had informed her that the real municipal CoCs "contradicted" the provincial CoC that showed the 12-0 TU sweep in Maguindanao.

"We were expecting that it would be the real municipal CoCs that would be submitted to the fact-finding team. But that would mean the operators putting Bedol in a bind. He would have to explain why the municipal CoCs contradicted the provincial CoC," De Lima said.

"It was a question of sacrificing Bedol or not. But Bedol might squeal. In the end, the operators decided to manufacture the municipal CoCs altogether," she said.

Still quoting her source, De Lima said that while TU had scored a 12-0 shutout, the real municipal CoCs reflected a much lower number of votes for the administration candidates.

Moreover, she said, there was no zero vote for the opposition. *With reports from Jerome Aning and Nikko Dizon*



BEDOL: Show up or else… Already, a familiar refrain.

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Corrections

THE ARTICLE "EX-PDI REPORTER DETAINED FOR LIbel despite posting bail" (Inquirer, June 22), misstated that Judge Ma. Teresa dela Torre-Yadao ordered the sheriff to bring Jofelle Tesorio to the East Avenue Medical Center. It was the Quezon City Female Dormitory (QCFD) jail officers that suggested that Tesorio undergo a medical checkup before she was admitted for commitment because a medical certificate was required.

****

The article also mentioned that Tesorio religiously attended the hearings, except one on Dec. 13, 2005. The correct date is Dec. 13, 2006.

***

The article also said that Tesorio "filed an affidavit of desistance." Tesorio did not file an affidavit of desistance because an accused cannot file such as an affidavit. There was in fact no affidavit of desistance filed before the court pertaining to the libel case against Tesorio.

***

In the June 23 issue, the "On Target" column of Ramon Tulfo on Page A") of the Metro Section—"Badmouthing the safety of a closed-door confab"—mistakenly referred to Jess Matubis as the spokesperson of Manila Water Co. Inc. Matubis is the spokesperson of Maynilad Water Services.

***

In the same issue, a photo caption on Page A6 mistakenly referred to Diana Crespo as Mark Jimenez's sister. Crespo is Jimenez's niece.

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Slow pace of project irks Noli

VICE PRESIDENT NOLI DE CASTRO yesterday expressed disappointment over the slow pace of construction of the government resettlement projects on a 50-hectare portion of the New Bilibid Prisons reservation and nearby Barangay Putatan in Muntinlupa City.

De Castro, chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), visited the site Friday and expressed his displeasure to the contractors.

He noted that the physical accomplishments for the project's Phases 1, 2, 3 and 4 were only at 9, 11, 60 and 20 percent, respectively.

"This is slow. You have to work double-time," De Castro told engineers Elmer Siguerra and Roy Abesamis of HG3 Construction and R2 Builders, respectively. Aside from the two firms, other contractors involved in the project are Lenvoisa Construction and Linear Construction Inc.

De Castro said the housing project should be finished by December in order to complete the relocation of squatter families from along the railways in the metropolis by that time.

"So if I were you, I'd take advantage of the fair weather. You'll have difficulty working when the rain sets in," the Vice President told the contractors.

The contractors attributed their low rate of accomplishment to the difficulty in transferring waste from the resettlement area to dumps in Laguna, which took them three weeks.

They, however, assured De Castro the project would be completed on time.

Cynthia D. Balana

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NEGOSYO SESSION AREA 3		
9am-10:30am PWEDE NA The Complete Guide to Personal Financing - EFREN CRUZ - **GREPALIFE** 11am-1:30pm Makronomics Session **UNILEVER** 2pm-4pm Wagi-Wagi sa Sari-Sari **COLGATE PALMOLIVE** 5:30pm-6pm Tipid at Lakas ng Negosyo Sagot ng **ALASKA**	9am-9:30am Baking Demo **SAN MIGUEL CORP.** 10:30am-12pm Makronomics Session **UNILEVER** 1pm-2pm Tabo-Tabo, Timba-Timba at Batya-Batyang Pangkabuhayan **3J PLASTIC WORLD** 2:30pm-4:30pm **DODO** is Negosyo **PTC COMMERCIAL CORP** 5pm-6pm Cooking Demo **Thai Agri**	9am-10:30am Basketball Power Camp Special Edition for Makro Members **ALASKA** 10:30am-11:30am **BANKARD** versus Cash Purchases 11:30am-1pm PWEDE NA The Complete Guide to Personal Financing - EFREN CRUZ - **GREPALIFE** 1pm-3pm **UNILEVER** Makronomics Session 4pm-5pm Meet & Greet **SAN MIGUEL CORP.**

JUNE 28, 2007 THURSDAY	JUNE 29, 2007 FRIDAY	JUNE 30, 2007 SATURDAY
NEGOSYO SESSION AREA 2		
9am-10:30am EXCLUSIVE FGD (by invitation only) **J&J** 11am-12:30pm Business Solution for Todays Entreprenours **GLOBE TELECOM** 1pm-2:30pm Dress up your Tindahan Merchandising Session **UNILEVER** 4pm-5pm Cooking Demo **SAN MIGUEL** 5:30pm-6pm Nutrition for Better Healthcare **UNITED PET FOOD**	9:30am-10:30am Wagi-Wagi sa Sari-Sari **COLGATE - PALMOLIVE** 12pm-2pm Dress up your Tindahan Merchandising Session **UNILEVER** 2:30pm-4pm PWEDE NA The Complete Guide to Personal Financing - EFREN CRUZ - **GREPALIFE** 5:30pm-6pm Dogfood for Care or Toxins **UNITED PET FOOD**	9am-10:30am Negosyo Session For Carinderia **COCA-COLA** 10:30am-12pm Merchandising Session **UNILEVER** 1pm-2:30pm Dagdag Negosyo para sa Inyo handog ng **GREPALIFE** 3pm-5pm White King Products Cooking Demo **RFM Corp.** 5:30pm-6pm Values of Pet Nutrition **UNITED PET FOOD**
SPECIAL EVENTS AREA		
9am-10am OPENING CEREMONY (by invitation) 10am-1pm Cooking Demo **AJI-NO-MOTO** 1:30pm-3pm Presentation w/ Celebrities **NESCAFE** 3:30pm-5pm 101 Ways of Preparing Chicken **BOUNTY FRESH CHICKEN** 5:30pm-7pm Bartending Eliminations	9:30am-12:30pm Makro Cooking Competition w/ Mascot Appearance **NESTLE** 1pm-2:30pm Cooking Demo featuring Thailand's Top Celebrity Chef Mr. Walter Lee **VENTURETEC** 3pm-5pm Presentation w/ Celebrities **NESCAFE** 5:30pm-7pm Bartending Eliminations	9:30am-12:30pm Makro Cooking Competition w/ Mascot Appearance **NESTLE** 1pm-4:30pm Presentation w/ Celebrities **NESCAFE** 5pm-7pm Bartending Championship

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SC to 'fine-tune' ruling on EO 464

THE AVOWED INTENTION OF the military brass to invoke Executive Order No. 464 as a means to snub an inquiry being planned by military rebel-turned-senator Antonio Trillanes IV may present an opportunity for the Supreme Court to "fine-tune" its earlier ruling on the order's constitutionality.

Chief Justice Reynato Puno said that if there would be "an appropriate case" filed before the tribunal arising from such a scenario, it could "tighten the gray areas" of its April 2006 ruling on the controversial order.

"You don't resolve these issues in just one case. There will be a lot of fine-tuning," Puno said in an interview with INQUIRER reporters and editors on Thursday night.

Response to Esperon

The Chief Justice was responding to a request for comment on Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon's statement that he would invoke EO 464 should the Senate summon him to appear in Trillanes' planned inquiry into the spate of political killings and disappearances under the Arroyo administration.

Esperon told reporters on June 19 that EO 464—which bars officials of the executive branch from appearing before congressional inquiries without the approval of President Macapagal-Arroyo—"is still in effect."

He said that, if ever, it should not be Trillanes but the Senate as a body that would request the executive branch for his appearance at an inquiry. He also said the executive branch must also be furnished early on the questions to be asked by lawmakers.

The President issued EO 464 in September 2005, on the day then Brig. Gen. Francisco Gudani and Col. Alexander Balutan testified at an inquiry conducted by Sen. Rodolfo Biazon's national defense committee on alleged election cheating in Mindanao in 2004.

In April 2006, the Supreme Court upheld the right of lawmakers to compel the appearance of officials of the executive branch at legislative inquiries. It said EO 464 pertained not only to Congress' right to know but also to the people's right to take part in government affairs.

But the high court, then headed by Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban, also said the President had the right not only to forbid her officials from attending the Question Hour in the Senate and in the House, but also to request a closed-door session "if the security of the state or public interest so requires." *Volt Contreras*

AND A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL. *That*, even when Chief Justice Puno (extreme right with PDI president/CEO Sandy Prieto-Romauldez, court administrator Christopher Lock) was saying that "the constitutional power being harnessed here by the [Supreme Court] may in some cases conflict with the legislative power to make laws."

EDWIN BACASMAS

SC to call summit on killings

From page A1

gation or prosecution of politically motivated crimes.

Asked whether the concept of command responsibility will be revisited in the summit, Puno conceded that the subject would be "one of the more difficult, ticklish parts of these rules."

A "reconfiguration of the rules of evidence," a review of the concept of "command responsibility," and giving the aggrieved party more options if the writ of habeas corpus proves ineffective in locating a missing person were just some of the ideas that he floated in the exchange.

Puno conceded that the thrust of the summit could "change [the Supreme Court's] relationship with the executive [department] and the legislature."

He said the constitutional "power" being harnessed here by the tribunal "may in some cases conflict with the legislative power to make laws."

The summit will try to draw participants from all three branches of government, human rights watchdog groups, the media, and the military and police, Puno said. International experts will also be invited.

SC's rule-making power

Under the Constitution, Puno said, "the rule-making power of the Supreme Court has been expanded."

"And under this expanded power, we can buy ourselves enough rules that will enhance the civil liberties of the people. We have not exercised this power. We want to know exactly the extent of the power," he said.

Puno was referring to Article VIII, Section 5, of the Constitution, which states that the Supreme Court shall have the power to "promulgate rules concerning the protection and enforcement of constitutional rights, pleading, practice, and procedure in all courts, the admission to the practice of law, the integrated bar, and legal assistance to the underprivileged."

The provision adds: "Such rules shall provide a simplified and inexpensive procedure for the speedy disposition of cases, shall be uniform for all courts of the same grade, and shall not diminish, increase, or modify substantive rights.

"Rules of procedure of special courts and quasi-judicial bodies shall remain effective unless disapproved by the Supreme Court."

(Puno also spoke about beefing up the Supreme Court's role in addressing the extrajudicial killings during a talk with journalists in Hong Kong on June 7, on the sidelines of the 12th Conference of Chief Justices of Asia and the Pacific.)

Habeas corpus

Chief Justice Puno noted that in the case of a forced disappearance wherein the suspect was an "agent of government," for example, "right now the remedy available to the victim is to file a writ of habeas corpus."

Per procedure, he said, "the court will issue a writ ordering, let's say, the Isafp (Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines), to produce the body of the person."

"But as we see the realities, the Isafp will make a return saying the victim is not in their custody—and that is it," he said.

What this means, according to the Chief Justice, is that "the writ of habeas corpus for purposes of this kind of case is not effective."

"So we are thinking, there is a new obligation that should be imposed on agents of government in charge of protecting our people," he said.

Perhaps some new rule can be imposed on state operatives "for them to exert all efforts to look for the victim, and for them to make periodic reports to the court on the progress of the case," Puno said, adding:

"A certain standard could be imposed in the performance of this duty. If they fail to keep that standard, then there are sanctions that can be imposed, like citing for contempt. There must be a stricter standard to which they must be accountable.

"If we can impose this new kind of obligation on the part of the military... If there is ... recklessness in the investigation, then that can be the subject of remedial measures."

Puno cited another proposal coming from another Supreme Court justice—for the courts to have the power to issue "protective orders for witnesses" in cases of extrajudicial killings.

Public support

"If we get a lot of public support, perhaps that will melt down resistance from other branches of government," he said. "I like to think that if we have the proper public support, we can get these new rules off the ground."

Puno expressed the hope that the military would "welcome" this undertaking, especially because it had been "getting heat not only domestically but also internationally."

"We have been thinking about this because ... extrajudicial killings are an assault on the rule of law," he said. "It's an indictment of the judicial system, so we have to do something about it. It's an expression of lack of confidence in our judicial system."

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PPCRV PRESIDENT Henrietta de Villa at a press conference with Comelec Commissioner Resurreccion Borja during the launch of the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV) Election Monitoring Manual in February.

INQUIRER PHOTO

PPCRV: May 14 polls ...

From page A1

In the report, the PPCRV praised the 439,693 volunteers as "living testimony" to the spirit of volunteerism.

It said the election was also a "celebration of collaboration, partnership and dialogue" that the PPCRV had with its Muslim partners in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and the Comelec-accredited National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel).

It cited the Legal Network for Truthful Election (Lente), the Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines (CEAP), Simbahang Lingkod ng Bayan (SLB), Radio Veritas and the Catholic Media Network, Social Action Centers of the Catholic church and several Bangsa Moro civil society groups and the Assembly of Darul Ifta which had entered into a partnership with the PPCRV for the elections in ARMM.

"There were shadows still, a lot of shadows brushing the landscape," said the PPCRV. One of these was the age-old practice of "guns, goons and gold" which resulted in the wanton killing of candidates and their supporters and rampant buying of votes not just with money but also with offers of government positions and contracts.

Much of the confusion and delay in the implementation of rules were blamed on the Commission of Elections' alleged mismanagement of the polls.

"The retention of scalawags in the Comelec and known 'operators' in its ranks blurred efforts at restoring its credibility and its campaign to reinforce moral values, and sadly negated the goodwill and the good intentions of the Comelec," the PPCRV said.

It said the "chronic failure of elections" in the ARMM highlighted the failure of government and its agencies, political leaders as well as the religious leaders, and the nation as a whole to use their resources and political will to alter the reality that ARMM is "the cheating capital of elections in the Philippines."

It also noted that a "considerable number" of boards of canvassers were able to evade investigation and prosecution by flaunting the phrase, "honest mistake."

But it said the program to educate voters was "definitely gaining ground" as shown by the failure of movie actors and celebrities to win.

"Issues, platform or governance and programs were beginning to mark national elections rather than personalities," the PPCRV claimed.

The PPCRV was created in 1991 as a lay movement for the transformation and renewal of Christian life in Philippine society. It was accredited as a Comelec citizens' arm in 1991, but had not been active in the following elections.

Following the controversial 2004 presidential elections, however, PPCRV president Henrieta de Villa pushed for the active participation of the PPCRV in the 2007 elections. In October 2006, the PPCRV launched its voters' education and poll watching seminars in parishes nationwide.

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Actor, spouse nabbed in Taguig shabu session

By Julie M. Aurelio

TV ACTOR BING DAVAO AND his wife Fatima were arrested by police Friday night after the couple were caught engaging in a shabu session with two others in an apartment in Maharlika Village, Taguig City.

Nabbed along with the couple were PO1 Abdulpatta Tula, 28, who is assigned to PCP-2 of the Taguig City police, and Hasbi Muco, 39, a former policeman.

Insp. Ariel Bait, intelligence chief of the Taguig City police, said the four suspects were caught at around 9:20 p.m. Friday when operatives raided Davao's residence at Room 202, Building 4, Medium Rise in Maharlika Village.

But the cops or the 47-year-old actor were not the targets of the operation, but a certain Macmond Ibrahim, who has a pending arrest warrant for illegal drug possession issued by the Pasig City Regional Trial Court.

"We received reports that Ibrahim was at Building 4, but we saw Davao during a drug session instead. The arrest was incidental," Bait said.

The operatives were unable to find their target, Ibrahim, whose arrest warrant was issued by Judge Pablito Roxas of the Pasig City RTC Branch 70.

Davao, Muco and Tula were taking turns taking shabu when caught by police. Davao's wife, who was also inside the apartment, allegedly yielded three plastic sachets of suspected shabu.

Bait said they had been conducting a surveillance of Fatima, whom they had long suspected of selling illegal drugs.

"Verified *talaga yang si* Fatima *na humahawak ng* shabu (It was verified that Fatima was handling shabu)," Bait said in a text message sent to the INQUIRER, adding that she had been under watch for six months.

Davao, the older brother of actor Ricky Davao and son of actor Charlie Davao, refused to comment on his arrest.

"I am sorry. I have not had any decent sleep. I don't want to talk about this incident yet," a haggard-looking Davao told the INQUIRER from his jail cell.

The actor and his wife are detained at the Taguig City police station.

The actor had starred in the 2002 TV series "Basta't Kasama Kita" and in the 2000 drama "Pangako Sa'yo."

'Cycling priest' loses wheels to thieves

DAVAO CITY—FR. AMADO Picardal, who bikes around the country bringing a message of peace, has lost his bicycle to thieves.

Last week, the 52-year-old priest, who is called "Father Picx," had just arrived from a trip to Iligan City when he learned of the theft which occurred right in the compound of the Redemptorist Congregation here.

"The first thing they told me was 'Father, we got bad news for you. Your bike was stolen,'" Picardal told the INQUIRER on Friday.

It was the same mountain bike, except for the main frame and some parts, that Picardal used on his first bicycle road trip from Davao City to the northern tip of Luzon in 2000.

He took another trip last year, biking some 2,000 kilometers over concrete and dirt roads across Mindanao, including conflict-affected areas, in 21 days. In every town he stopped at for the night, he offered a Mass.

The theft of his bike would not prevent him from continuing with his advocacy, he said.

He is set to embark on his longest bike trip yet in the next two years. This time he will set out from Davao City and pedal to the Cordillera in Luzon and back, taking different routes each way.

In this connection, he has appealed to the person who took his bike: "Please return it because I need it to travel the Philippines."

He said he was not interested in filing charges against the culprit provided [he] "just return it."

Dennis Jay Santos, Inquirer Mindanao

Media men take to the airwaves

EVERYTHING YOU always wanted to know about media, whether from a practitioner's or layman's point of view, will be discussed on "Usapang Media," a 30-minute segment that will air over dwAD, 1098 khz, from 3:30 to 4 p.m. every Monday beginning on June 25.

National Union of Journalists of the Philippines officers and members, including Jose Torres Jr. (GMANews.tv), Deo Bugaoisan (GMA 7), Nonoy Espina (Inquirer.net), Carlos Conde (IHT) and UP Journalism Prof. Danny Arao, will take turns anchoring the segment. Sonny Fernandez, NUJP vice chair, and Angel Ayala of NUJP-Sorsogon are project heads.

"Usapang Media" will be a regular segment of the program "Ano Bang Atin Kabayan" hosted by Ricky Lee.

The segment will focus on issues that journalists face, ranging from killings, libel suits, to the measly wages that they are paid. It will also provide tips for safe coverage and enhance awareness of the ethics of journalism.

The project seeks to build a base of listeners with a critical understanding of the nature of media. Thus, "Usapang Media" will tackle how media works, how it produces meaning and constructs reality, and how it could benefit some people but leave others out.

All episodes will be recorded and the materials made available to interested parties, the NUJP said.

MANILA'S FINEST

On the occasion of the 436th celebration of Araw ng Maynila, the city conferred its Patnubay ng Sining at Kalinangan Award on, from left, Manuel Maramba, music; Rodolfo "Dolphy" Quizon, film; Augustus Damian, dance; Myra Beltran, Tanging Parangal; Antonio Limuaco Fabella, Diwa ng Lahi; Duddly Diaz, sculpture; Mayor Lito Atienza; Ambeth Ocampo, Gatpuno Villegas Award; Esperidion Laxa, Patnubay committee cochair; Ricardo de Ungria, literature; Carmelo Casas, architecture; Filemon de la Cruz, painting; the representative of the Kaliwat Theatre Collective, theater/drama, and Cesare Syjuco, new art forms. The awards night was held at Manila City Hall.

INQUIRER PHOTO/JM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Raps filed vs 75 suspects in drug raid

By Tina G. Santos

POLICE FILED ON FRIDAY ILLEGAL DRUG charges against 75 of the 110 people arrested Thursday in a suspected shabu den in Intramuros before the Manila Prosecutor's Office.

Supt. Roderick Mariano, chief of the Manila Police District antinarcotic's unit, said the 75 suspects, including five of the six alleged maintainers of the shabu den inside the compound, tested positive for drug use.

"The suspects will still be subjected to confirmatory tests, but initial drug tests on them showed that they're positive for drug use," he told the INQUIRER.

Authorities have allowed the 35 others, including four minors, who tested negative for drugs, to go home.

The shabu den's suspected maintainers Zayra Denanila, 23; Romeo Reyes, "alias Kuba (hunchback)," 41; Marilou Velasquez, 29; Samuel Madera, 39; Jovito Gaspar, 32 also tested positive for drugs.

Additional charges for drug sale, possession and distribution, possession of drug paraphernalia and maintaining of a drug were filed against them. A sixth suspect, known only as "Nanay Amelia," remains at large.

Anti-illegal drug operatives, backed up by Special Weapons and Tactics, swooped down on a suspected shabu *tiangge* in an area known as Banana Island inside the historic Intramuros on Thursday, rounding up more than a hundred people and seizing a still undetermined quantity of shabu and drug paraphernalia.

The raid in Barangay 654, Zone 69 Intramuros was the result of several weeks' surveillance and test buys to validate intelligence reports that the place is an open market for prohibited drugs.

Mariano said they had received complaints from school administrators saying illegal drug trade proliferates in the area. He added that majority of buyers from the suspected shabu den were students from nearby schools.

The suspected shabu tiangge was located a few meters away from Lyceum University, Letran College, Pamantasan Lungsod ng Maynila and Mapua Institute of Technology.

Meanwhile, Mariano challenged the residents who accused policemen of harassment to file formal complaints against them.

Some residents alleged that they lost valuables during the raid and that some policemen refused to allow them to claim their belongings.

"Instead of airing their grievances to the media, they should go to the police station to file a formal complaint. Anyway, we welcome any complaint and we're willing to answer them at the proper forum," Mariano said.

Police officials said the area, which had initially been declared off-limits and cordoned off by the police, was turned over to barangay chair Salvador Fuentes.

"The residents have been allowed to go back there, but we'll continue to monitor the area," Mariano said.

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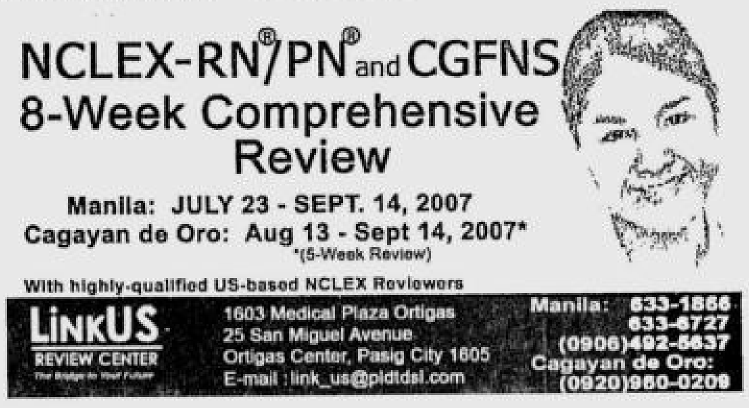

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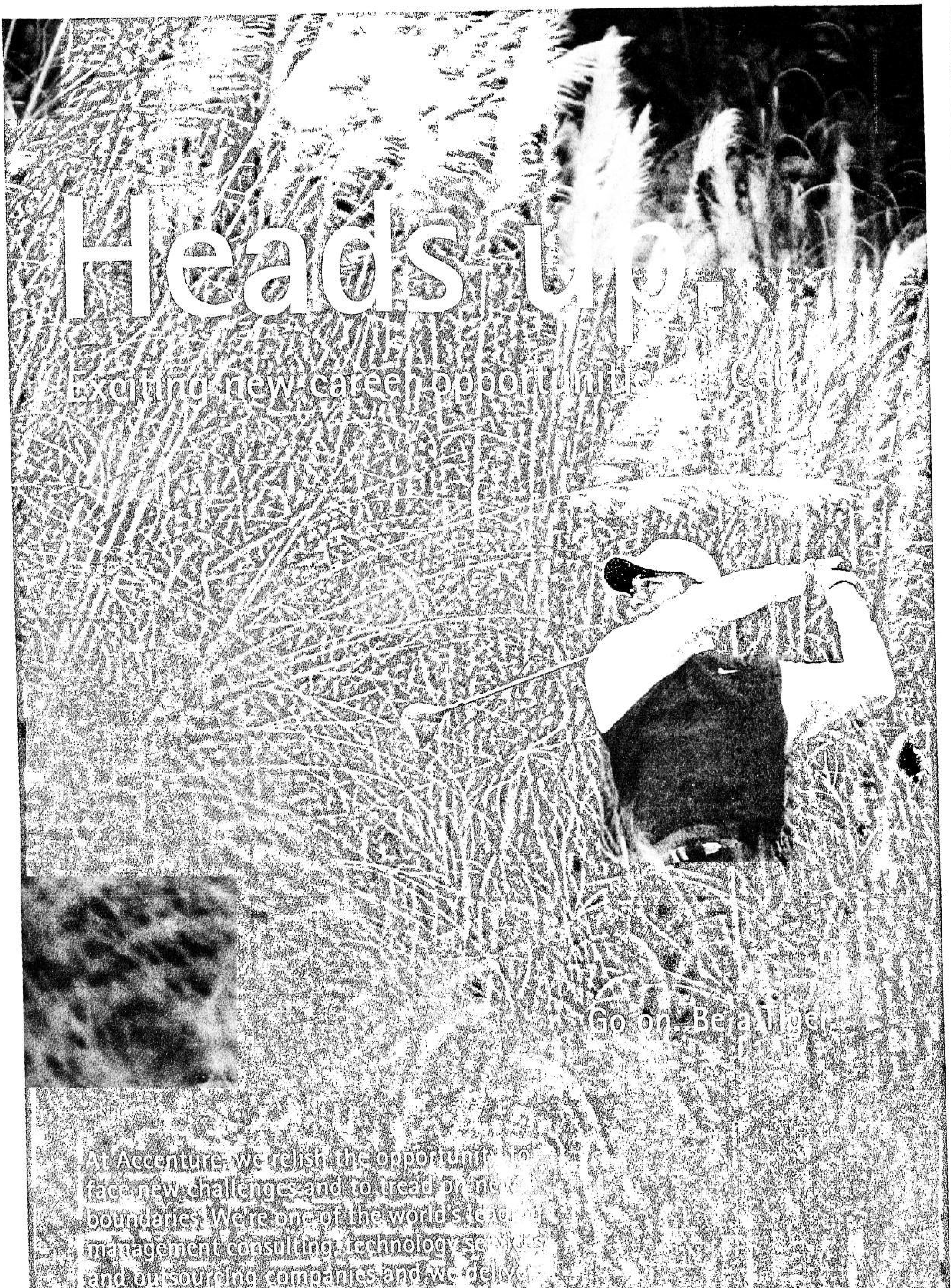
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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, June 24, 2007
Birth of John the Baptist

1st Reading: **Isaiah 49:1-6**

I will make you a light to the nations.

Listen to me, O islands, pay attention, peoples from distant lands.

Yahweh called me from my mother's womb; he pronounced my name before I was born.

He made my mouth like a sharpened sword.

He hid me in the shadow of his hand.

He made me into a polished arrow set apart in his quiver.

He said to me, "You are Israel, my servant,
Through you I will be known."

"I have labored in vain," I thought and spent my strength for nothing."

Yet what is due me was in the hand of Yahweh, and my reward was with my God.

I am important in the sight of Yahweh, and my God is my strength.

And now Yahweh has spoken, he who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, to gather Israel to him.

He said: "It is not enough that you be my servant, to restore the tribes of Jacob, to bring back the remnant of Israel.

I will make you the light of the nations, that my salvation will reach to the ends of the earth."

2nd Reading: **Acts 13:22-26**

John proclaimed a baptism of repentance.

Paul said, "After that time, God removed him and raised up David as king, to whom he bore witness saying: I have found David, the son of Jesse, a man after my own heart, who will do all I want him to do.

"It is from the descendants of David that God has now raised up the promised savior of Israel, Jesus. Before he appeared, John proclaimed a baptism of repentance for all the people of Israel. As John was ending his life's work, he said: 'I am not what you think I am, for after me another one is coming whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.'

"Brothers, children and descendants of Abraham, and you also who fear God, it is to you that this message of salvation has been sent."

Gospel: **Luke 1:57-66, 80**

John is his name.

When the time came for Elizabeth, she gave birth to a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the merciful Lord had done a wonderful thing for her and they rejoiced with her.

When on the eighth day they came to attend the circumcision of the child, they wanted to name him Zechariah after his father. But his mother said, "Not so; he shall be called John." They said to her, "No one in your family has that name"; and they asked the father by means of signs for the name he wanted to give. Zechariah asked for a writing tablet and wrote on it, "His name is John," and they were very surprised. Immediately Zechariah could speak again and his first words were in praise of God.

A holy fear came on all in the neighborhood, and throughout the Hills of Judea the people talked about these events. All who heard of it pondered in their minds and wondered, "What will this child be?" For they understood that the hand of the Lord was with him.

As the child grew up, he was seen to be strong in the Spirit; he lived in the desert till the day when he appeared openly in Israel.

Commentary

John is the fiercest and most devoted to God among the prophets. He belonged to God from the time he was conceived in his mother's womb. The words that came out of his mouth were the words of God. His message was to root up and tear down nations and then to build and to plant the new kingdom of God and his children on the earth. He lived in expectation, waiting, looking, being alert in every moment for the presence and the coming power of God to reveal itself. Do we live investigating the times and circumstances that the Spirit of God gives to us with any of the intensity and zeal of John? Do we appreciate what the prophets have done for us-along with so many others that have brought us to birth in God? John was about turning people towards God, bringing them to the practice of the wisdom of the just, and preparing a people for the Lord. May we pray for prophets like this in every nation and community.

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PWU to honor chair Helena Benitez on her 93rd

PHILIPPINE WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY chair Dr. Helena Z. Benitez will be honored with a "Salute to Chairperson HZB," a pre-birthday celebration on June 25 on the PWU Taft campus in Manila.

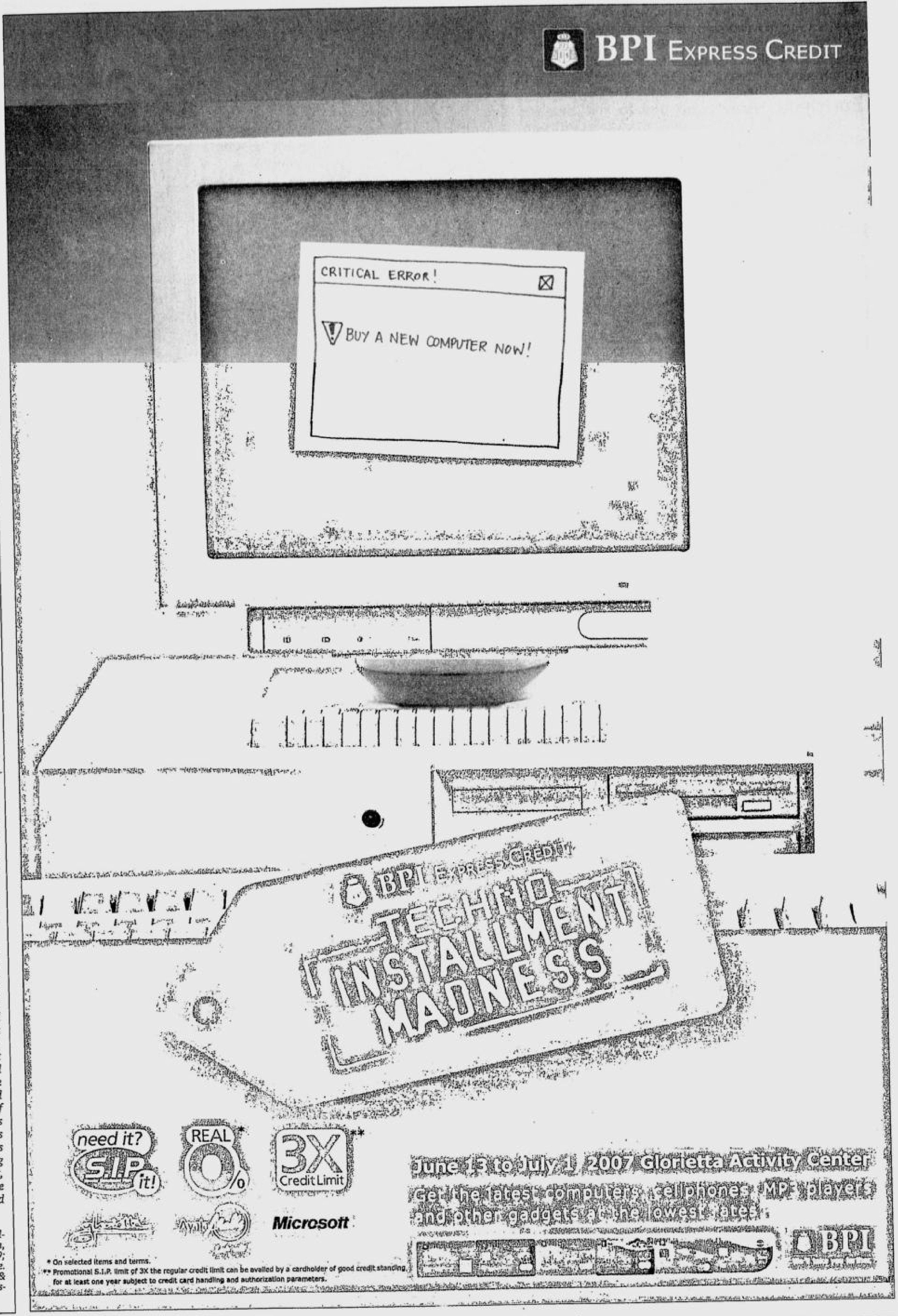
The program, in collaboration with the Philippine Home Economics Foundation Inc. and the PWU Alumni Association, will begin with a Mass to be officiated by PWU chaplain Msgr. Hernando Coronel with welcome remarks to be given by Chancellor Dr. Dolores B. Lasan. PWU president Dr. Amelou B. Reyes will deliver the inspirational message.

To speak on the honoree's various causes are Dr. Emily Marohombsar, Ambassador Rosario Manalo, Dr. Leticia Navarro, Dr. Manuel Alba and CHEd Commissioner Dr. Nona Ricafort.

On Benitez's 93rd birthday on June 27, a Mass will be celebrated to be followed by a testimonial luncheon and program with the theme, "Alay sa Kinabukasan." The soft opening of the HZB Hall—a museum and art gallery—will follow.

The hall will house the costumes of the Philippine Bayanihan Dance Company and National Artist Dr. Lucrecia Kasilag's collection of hundreds of indigenous musical instruments.

The internationally acclaimed Bayanihan and the PWU School of Music Chorale will provide the entertainment.



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Unjust anachronism

EDITORIAL

THE LATE HENRY ANATOLE GRUNWALD, AN EDItor, once wrote, "Libel actions ... are an ornament of a civilized society [that] have replaced ... in most cases, a resort to weapons in defense of a reputation." But that observation is true of the West, and untrue when it comes to the Philippines. As the International Federation of Journalists pointed out in a recent statement, "The libel laws in the Philippines are outdated, excessive and unreasonable, and they are too often abused by those with power to silence journalists."

Just how outdated the provisions of the law are, can be deduced simply by looking at the Revised Penal Code, Act. No. 3815, enacted by the Philippine Legislature on Dec. 8, 1930. When the Revised Penal Code was enacted, our country still had a foreign governor-general; every official was required to swear allegiance to the United States; the only armed forces was the Philippine Constabulary, created so that native troops could be used to suppress any agitations for independence; and the country hadn't even thought it possible that it would have, once more, a constitution written by Filipinos, to establish a purely Filipino government.

Measured by the interests of the sovereign power at the time—the United States—and bearing into account the conditions that prevailed in those days, and accounting for the state of libel laws in other nations in that era, the Revised Penal Code, which deems libel a matter for a criminal, and not civil, trial in the courts, was perhaps neither excessive nor unusual.

But the Philippines, and Filipinos, have moved far ahead from those days; and the assumptions that the law tried to uphold—American sovereignty, a colonial government, upholding an alien authority in the face of the aspirations for liberty of a subjugated people—not only no longer hold true today, they stopped holding true as early as 1935, when we finally ratified a constitution that proclaimed freedom of speech and assembly as among the highest ideals of our nationhood. These ideals were reiterated in 1973, and without any doubt, further strengthened when our present Constitution was ratified in 1987. Yet the penal code has hardly changed, and the reason why our lawmakers haven't bothered to update the law is clear: it upholds their interests, and those of their friends.

Writing in a paper titled "No Place in the Law: The ignominy of Criminal Libel in American Jurisprudence," Dr. Gregory Lisby, professor at the Department of Communications of Georgia State University, points out that "The relationship of government with those who are governed may be described in one of two basic ways: either the governors are the people's superiors or they are the people's servants .... The philosophy under which criminal libel developed—authoritarian theory—assumes that the governors are the people's 'betters,' and therefore must not be subjected to censure that would tend to diminish their authority."

To clarify: neither this paper nor the media, at home and abroad, which have called for the decriminalizing of libel, want the citizenry deprived of a chance to go to court to sue for damages that result from irresponsible statements. But we object to libel being used as an instrument to exalt those with wealth, power and influence, who use the threat of criminal action as a kind of blunt weapon. Jofelle Tesorio, former correspondent of the INQUIRER and editor of Bandillo ng Palawan, and now with the Bangkok-based Asia News Network, is currently being held in Camp Karingal in Quezon City, yet she posted bail on June 21. The reason? The judge has yet to sign her release papers. A travesty? Yes—but more of the usual.

Lisby clarifies the distinction between libel as an offense that can be brought to the courts to render monetary compensation to a complainant, and libel as a crime which can land the accused in jail: "Civil libel is a tort; an alleged private wrong. Criminal libel, on the other hand, is an alleged public wrong and the State is one of the opposing parties; it is always the more dominant of the two. The prosecution of a criminal libel thus involves the misuse and abuse of power. It could be blatant, or it could be as subtle as a prosecutor's choice of whether criminal charges should be brought, and if so, what they should be."

The purpose of making libel a crime, then, Lisby says, "is to chill speech. It does not promote the equality of persons or of ideas. It has no place in a democratic society."

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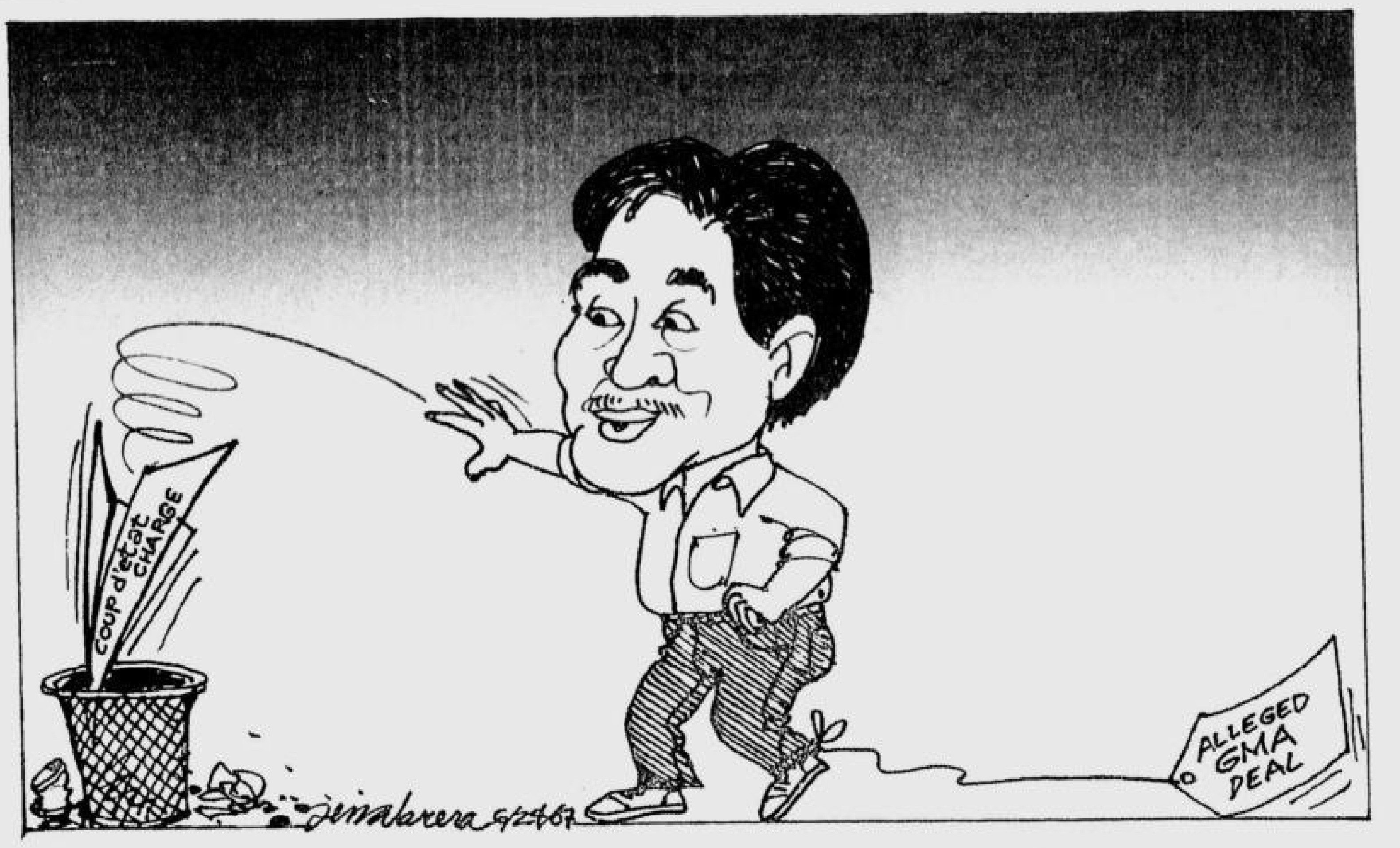


The pretext of national reconciliation

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

DESPITE THE HUMILIATING DEFEAT OF THE candidates personally handpicked by her as her "winnable" defenders in the rejected Team Unity, President Macapagal-Arroyo has claimed overwhelming victory in the elections for members of the House of Representatives and local officials as proof of the people's continued support for her.

The usual anomalies that polluted such elections, coupled with the general disaffection for her policies as reversed several times by the Supreme Court composed mostly of her own appointees, hardly lend credence to her swaggering conclusion. But her loyal mercenaries are quick to say that the 10 oppositionists who won in the senatorial elections are no match against the hundreds if not thousands of supporters who triumphed under her colors.

Now, relying on her false premise and anxious for an end to the hostilities that she has herself provoked, she is saying that the end of the elections should signal a new era of togetherness in what she calls a "national reconciliation." A strident television commercial accuses the opposition of "*panggugulo*" (trouble-making) and nothing more. Her theme now is peace instead of politics. She says that what the nation needs after the bitter political campaign is not obstruction from her critics but cooperation with her administration.

That angry commercial is shouting that the opposition is opposing just for the sake of opposing. It dismisses all the criticism against the President as pure hogwash publicized only for electoral advantage. This is what Ms Gloria wants to stop, now that the conflict in the hustings is over and the electorate has made its decision. She says there is no more need for mudslinging, and the people should instead join hands in a spirit of amicable healing.

GMA's cohorts argue that this is especially necessary now, with the strengthening of the Philippine peso against the US dollar, the entry of substantial foreign investments into the country, the lowering of the unemployment rate, the rise in stock prices and other economic advantages their leader has achieved through her own efforts and vision. They are implying that opposition to her policies now would be detrimental to the national interest and should be avoided as mean and unpatriotic.

As pious as it may sound, her suggestion is hypocritical and undemocratic. She would silence criticism in favor of abject conformity with her as from a regimented claque. In the name of cooperation, she would suppress serious questions about her motives and reject objections to her methods however censurable. She would enfeeble freedom of expression that guarantees to the citizenry the right to speak its mind on any "matter that touches the heart of the existing order."

There is nothing wrong with national reconciliation as long as it does not impair the opportunity of the citizen, whether from the high corridors of power or only the hovels in the slums, to articulate his views on how the government should be run. That is his right and responsibility regardless of whether his thoughts are sublime or plainly foolish. Enforced obedience to superior orders while the soul within rebels has no place in the republican society. Such compulsion would render the liberties of the people more shadow than substance and an ill-conceived façade.

Compliance with GMA's suggestion is of course out of the question. Politicians from the opposition, objective journalists not on government payrolls, teachers and students with a reverence for the Bill of Rights, and ordinary citizens accustomed to speak freely—none of them will hesitate to continue questioning, criticizing, condemning or extolling, as their civic conscience instructs them, the acts of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as President of the Philippines.

And the questions they ask are legion. She has yet to explain the Garci tapes and her confessed "lapse in judgment"; the provenance and overpayment of the Venable retainer contract; the P780 million embezzled fertilizer fund; the Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard scandal; the increasing violations of human rights and the murders of media practitioners; the rising incidence of crime and the arrogance of the organized outlaws; the still unpunished abuses in the Armed Forces of which she is the commander in chief; the real identity of Jose Pidal, and other serious mysteries of her administration she would push under the rug.

National reconciliation is too high a price for the suppression of the right of the citizens to question the acts of the President of the Philippines who is their servant and not their crowned majesty. Her answers should not be shrouded in silence on the pretext of national reconciliation.

Neighbors and relatives

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

WHO'S TALKING? THEY SAY THAT DURING courtship, the man talks and the woman listens. Once married, it is the wife who talks, and the husband listens. After some more years, both husband and wife talk, and the neighbors listen.

* * *

In today's Gospel (Lk. 1, 57-66, 80), we are told that the neighbors and relatives of Elizabeth rejoiced with her at the birth of John the Baptist. These neighbors and relatives were probably the same ones who despised her when she was sterile. They were also going to choose the name for the child. The story shows that even then, as now, neighbors and relatives played a big role in our lives. If we let them, that is.

* * *

Zechariah, the father of John the Baptist, when asked what he wished his son to be called, was clear and empathic: "His name is John." Even if his neighbors and relatives questioned his decision and protested, he was unbending. Why? Because he listened to God. The bottom line of our decisions and plans should be the say of God, and not so much the say of people, even if they are our neighbors or relatives.

* * *

There are all sorts of neighbors and relatives. There are those who respect and support us, and there are those who simply think they own us. These are also those who have taken upon themselves the duty to criticize and comment on us. Worse are those who do it all "in God's name." Our lesson from Zechariah is that we listen to people, but in the end, we listen to God.

* * *

There will always be people who will not like us, or what we say, or what we stand for. But we must stand for the truth, in season and out of season. I suppose we all know that persecution is part and parcel of a prophet's, and for that matter, a Christian's life. We were forewarned of this by the Lord, and we were also instructed to pray for those who persecute us. And how do we treat the trash they dump on us? Treat them simply as that—trash.

* * *

Let us continue to pray for Fr. Giancarlo Bossi, an Italian PIME missionary to the Philippines who was kidnapped recently. His only "fault" is that he is a priest, and he speaks of gospel truths and values. In our own congregation (Society of the Divine Word), our Indonesian Fr. Francis Madhu was killed last Palm Sunday in Kalinga. I recall, too, how our two Filipino confreres, Fr. Efren de Guzman and Fr. Raymund Festin, were ambushed and almost died in Angola in one of their mission trips. So do we stop proclaiming gospel truths and values because of persecution? No amount of intimidation, coercion, manipulation, lies, abductions and extrajudicial killings can stop the truth from coming out.

* * *

Remember Fatima Soriano, the blind girl who used to have dialysis five times a day? In our healing Masses in Vancouver, Canada recently, people were falling, "slain in the Spirit" whenever she prayed over them, and she was not even aware of it. Her gifts from the Lord are unfolding. I have witnessed the simplicity and obedience of this child. She listens to God. She receives instructions from the Lord. At times, not even her parents Danny and Fely can understand what she goes through, but like Fatima, they listen now more to God than to neighbors and relatives.

* * *

Fourteen-year-old Fatima Soriano hits the nail on the head when she says that everything she does is a mission. Because of mission, she sees her sufferings as her offering even at an early age. Because of mission, she doesn't mind going to distant places and going through inconveniences to bring God's message of hope and love. Because of mission, she chooses to listen and please God rather than people.

* * *

Take a look at people who have only ambition and no sense of mission. These are people who are bound to lead "successful"—but vain, shallow and empty—lives. On the other hand, take a look at people who see life as a mission from God. They may not be leading a "successful life" in the eyes of the world, but their lives are significant and meaningful in the eyes of God.

* * *

The challenge for each and every one of us is to keep asking what God wants, and not so much what we want, or what our neighbors and relatives want. If we don't rise up to that challenge, we limit ourselves to the level of selfishness, mediocrity and vanity.

* * *

We all will face our Creator someday. What will He tell us? Will He tell us how we have forgotten Him or how we have set Him aside while we were still alive as we pursued our selfish agenda in life? Will He chide us that we never stood for Him, and never risked for Him? Let us live in such a way that when that tremendous and fascinating moment comes, He will greet us with a smile and say, "Welcome, my obedient and loving child!"

* * *

Think about it: When you get upset by what people say or do, you have been set up by the evil one. Listen to God and you can stay in peace and keep your peace.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Remind me Lord that true life is about pleasing you, and not so much myself, my neighbors and relatives. Amen.

Japan, the new and the old

WITH DUE RESPECT

Artemio V. Panganiban

LAST SUNDAY, I WROTE ABOUT MY VISIT TO Tokyo to thank the Japanese government for the P300-million unconditional grant to help build the Philja Development Center in Tagaytay. Thereafter, my wife Leni and I joined a grand tour of Japan arranged by Globus, one of the largest tour operators in the world. Globus packages may be bought from any travel agency here.

High-tech Japan. To get a "feel" of both modern and traditional Japan, we stayed in mega cities like Tokyo, Osaka and Kyoto, as well as in small ones, like Takayama and Kanazawa. We motored through the Japanese alps, passed by quaint villages with thatched-roof houses, marveled at the Himeji Castle and the Katsura Imperial Villa, and were shocked at the atomic bomb devastation in Hiroshima. We rode the Shinkansen. At 280 kilometers per hour, the ride was amazingly quiet and smooth. At that speed, Baguio could be reached from Manila in an hour.

All the hotels we used (Hilton, Nikko and Ana) had high-tech toilets that featured heated seats, temperature–controlled electronic bidets and sprays, as well as hot air blowers to dry one's bottom without toilet paper. Some had sophisticated gadgets like mini water massage hoses and devices that measure body fat ratios.

Three of the hotels provided "magnetic" pillows that truly induced me to sleep more soundly. But the Osaka Hilton outdid the others by offering a "Pillow Menu" from which guests may choose a: (1) *sobagara*, Japanese pillow made of buckwheat hull; (2) *sobagara* combined with down feathers; (3) non-allergy cotton; (4) *hinoko*, made of cypress chips; (5) white duck feathers; or (6) *tempur*, flexible polyurethane that conforms to the shape of the sleeper's head.

Another technological wonder: the vehicles in the major cities have global positioning systems (GPS) with large monitors and voice guides. Thus, no driver would ever get lost in the confusing concrete mazes of Japan. Generally, the Japanese do not give names to their streets or numbers to their houses. Instead, they use a unique "chome" system that is too complicated for my understanding.

Being fond of Japanese cuisine, I savored the best *wagyu* (Japanese beefsteak) dinner at the Okura hotel, which was hosted by Carlos "Pop" Mañalac, our son-in-law's brother. As the managing director of Lehman Brothers in Asia (based in Tokyo), he is probably one of the highest paid expats in Japan. On the other hand, our Globus guide treated us in Hiroshima to the *okonomiyaki*, a reasonably-priced (about P300) delicacy I relished. I now hope that an entrepreneur would introduce it in Makati.

Traditional Japan. Despite being the second largest economy in the world, Japan still retains many vestiges of its past. Perhaps the most important Japanese value is *wa* which, roughly translated, means "harmony." Historically bound in tight-knit communities, the Japanese highly prize group cohesion, teamwork and consensus. They have no exact equivalent of the English word "no," because an extreme negative is anathema to consensus. Neither is there an identical word to "yes." *Hai* does not necessarily mean "I agree." Most of the time, it merely signifies, "I understand."

Because the Japanese hate to displease, there is almost always a gap between "what is said" and "what is the truth." In a society where harmony is paramount, people tend to hide their true feelings, lest they offend others or damage the group's solidarity. It is up to the hearer to understand the real situation and to act accordingly. For example, we came late (a no-no in Japan) for a show. Instead of saying "no" to our request for admission, the hostess told us that the weather was unpredictable and that the next day would probably bring in the sunshine. That was her indirect way of advising us to come back the following day.

Calling cards are extremely important, not so much to identify but to show the rank and career status of the giver. It is only in this manner that new acquaintances are able to converse properly. There is a distinct way of speaking with an inferior, as there is with a superior and with an equal.

Tipping is not common in Japan. In fact, waiters and bellhops are sometimes offended when tipped. Bowing is customary and is sometimes more important than words. It can mean anything from "hello" to "goodbye" to "thank you." Extremely courteous, natives go out of their way to help fumbling strangers.

Democratic Japan. Steadfastly parliamentary, the Japanese government is headed by a prime minister. Lawmaking is vested in a two-house Diet while judicial power is exercised by an independent Supreme Court. Though group-oriented, the people are nonetheless entrepreneurial and committed to free trade.

The main religions are Shinto, an indigenous faith with naturalist origins, and Buddhism. About 2 percent of the population is Christian. True to their "consensusness," many Japanese are said to "be born Shinto, marry Christian and die Buddhist."

When I was still practising law and dabbling in business, I used to frequent Japan. Now, after my retirement, I am pleased to have come back, and note that, despite the lapse of 25 years, it is still a country of contrasts and contradictions; an oasis of oriental charm and Western innovations; a cradle of Eastern religions and an exemplar of liberal democracy; a promoter of human rights and an adherent of free trade. It pioneers e-age technologies but retains its traditional values, thereby exhibiting a distinct Japanese lifestyle.

* * *

Comments are welcome at chiefjusticepanganiban@hotmail.com

G8's miracles

WORLD VIEW

Joschka Fischer

TWO WEEKS AFTER THE G8 LEADERS MET IN GERMANY, an impression remains that they wrought a political miracle in Heiligendamm. Three things were supposedly saved at the G8 summit: world climate, Africa and relations between Russia and the United States.

It seemed that a world government had met on the shores of the Baltic Sea. In the face of European unity, George W. Bush was transformed from a notorious sinner against the world's climate to a born-again climate protector. Some bold observers, indeed, regard this change of heart by Bush as a clear indication that Europe had assumed a new role in world politics. But no real miracles occurred; instead, the G8 will need a miracle not to lose its relevance.

In faraway America, however, where people are normally more religious than in old Europe, belief in the Heiligendamm miracle is less widespread. Indeed, Americans were rather indifferent to the summit. The reason for this is not only the public arrest of the tabloid newspapers' current favorite, the heiress Paris Hilton; it is also the fact that the only expectations Americans now have of President Bush is for him to finish his term. Because of Bush's perceived impotence, Americans believed that no real decisions could be taken at this summit.

What, then, was decided at the summit? To begin with, the G8 countries decided to "seriously examine" cutting in half worldwide emissions by 2050! This is a very long time in politics. This compromise was supposedly hammered out in tough negotiations. But translated into everyday speech, "examine" and even "seriously examine" mean nothing other than "to postpone."

For what happened is that America's president, both before the summit and quite publicly at it, successfully spurned quantifiable goals and refused to make any concrete commitments. So in the end all that was left was a choice between doing nothing and deciding to postpone a decision in a "serious" way. This is how international conferences sometimes work.

Thus, sadly, Europe's contribution to the conversion of America's president on climate change was very limited. After all, whatever awakening Bush has had has more to do with changes in the US political climate, where climate change is now a real issue. Indeed, the positions of Al Gore and California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger have contributed more to Bush's awakening than all the efforts of the European leaders combined.

In the cold light of day, the US government's agreement to negotiate a successor treaty to the Kyoto Protocol within a UN framework is not a sign of real progress either. This is so because members of both parties in the US Congress still repeat the mantra: Nothing without China! This position will not change after the next presidential election.

The problem becomes clear when you compare per capita emissions in the United States and China rather than absolute numbers. China may be the second largest emitter of greenhouse gases in absolute terms (behind the United States), but its per capita emissions are those of an emerging economy that is still far behind. The fact that the United States, the world's largest economy and emitter of greenhouse gases—in absolute numbers and in per capita terms—is taking cover behind the largest emerging country with regard to climate policy does not bode well for the future.

Climate change is not the only place where the G8 summit now seems less than miraculous. In the run-up to the summit, Germany announced that it would increase its foreign aid for Africa by 700 million euros. This was the only concrete step, one deserving of praise. But otherwise the G8 only reaffirmed the decision they had taken two years ago in Gleneagles, Scotland. So in real terms Africa has received only more grandiose rhetoric. Unfortunately, there is nothing to indicate that restating empty promises will lead to any change.

The German presidency of this year's G8 cannot be held responsible for this state of affairs. Under the prevailing circumstances, it is hard to see how more could have been achieved, given the political conditions back home of the summit's participants.

So the summit's outcome was far from a miracle. What really mattered in Heiligendamm were not the decisions taken by any putative world government but the fact that the days of the G8 now seem to be numbered.

Politically and economically, China and India are more important today than some European G8 members. Indeed, Europeans should understand that this viewpoint is spreading around the world, particularly on the other side of the Atlantic.

President Putin's behavior at the summit clearly demonstrated what he thinks about the Europeans; not too much. While the Europeans dreamed of assuming a mediator's role between the United States and Russia, the Russian president was determined to resolve the questions of the US anti-ballistic missile shield and Kosovo bilaterally with the United States.

As in the old Cold War days, Russia would love to sit once again at the negotiating table alone with America. The Europeans, with their disunity and weakness, are perceived as unnecessary, even bothersome. If the Europeans continue to cultivate their weakness and disunity, it may well happen that Europe will become irrelevant across the international agenda.

This year's G8 is over. Next December things will start getting serious. Environment ministers from around the world will meet at the next UN climate conference in Bali. Only then we will know with certainty if a miracle did occur at Heiligendamm or if the summit was, indeed, yet another "political miracle play." ***Project Syndicate/Institute of Human Sciences***

Joschka Fischer was Germany's foreign minister and vice chancellor from 1998 to 2005. A leader in the Green Party for nearly 20 years, he is now a visiting professor at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School.

Birth and death

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

BIRTHING HAS ALWAYS BEEN A WOMEN'S ritual. Before the natural birth movement brought fathers not just into the labor room but in birth classes too, men were largely absent from the entire process of pregnancy and birth—except, of course, for donating the sperm (knowingly or unknowingly) that sets the women down that road.

From the moment a woman finds out she's pregnant, she finds herself cocooned in a circle of advice and counseling, helpful or otherwise, from other women, even those who have yet to be with child. She is told what she should and should not eat, how to have a good-looking child (by clipping a picture of a cute baby and placing it beneath her pillow), how to avoid stretch marks and unwanted pigmentation (usually useless), even when and how to have sex despite the watermelon in her belly.

The sisterhood makes itself felt particularly during delivery. In the days before the "medicalization" of birth, a woman delivered at home, cared for by a birth attendant, and surrounded by women boiling water, preparing concoctions, washing linen and praying novena after novena for her and the baby's survival.

The father and his men friends and relatives would be waiting outside the delivery chambers or in the backyard or even at a nearby *sari-sari* store or bar. When hospital deliveries became common, fathers would be consigned to a waiting area, playing out the cliché of the anxious parent pacing back and forth and, when it was still politically correct, smoking stick after stick and littering the hospital floor with cigarette butts.

Being absent from the scene, fathers often took the process for granted, or else took inordinate credit for the outcome. An old professor of mine, a mother of 12, has a favorite story about her late husband. As she swam out of the anesthesia after the birth of their oldest child, a girl, her husband looked lovingly into her eyes and said gently "We have a girl, but don't worry, the next one will be a boy."

* * *

DESPITE the romanticism of the sisterhood looking after their own at the time of a woman's delivery, the truth is that the moment of birth and the period immediately after it is fraught with risk for both mother and child.

In a policy paper on "Saving Newborn Lives" published by Save the Children and the Population Reference Bureau, the authors posit that "Newborn survival is inextricably linked to the health of the mother. Nowhere is this more evident than the high risk of death for newborns and infants whose mothers die in childbirth."

For both newborns and mothers, says the paper, "the highest risk of death occurs at delivery, followed by the first hours and days after childbirth. The postnatal period (the time just after delivery and through the first six weeks of life) is especially critical for newborns and mothers."

More than two-thirds of newborn deaths take place by the end of the first week after delivery, with up to one-half of all newborn deaths occurring in the first 24 hours. Each year, four million infants die within their first month of life, representing nearly 40 percent of all deaths of children under 5.

Similarly, approximately two-thirds of all maternal deaths occur in the postnatal period. Says the paper: "The time of highest risk of death is the same for mothers and for newborns—on the day of delivery and over the next few days after delivery."

These data, the authors say, "offer compelling evidence that integrated maternal and newborn postnatal care (PNC) during the first few days after delivery should be provided to all newborns and their mothers as a concerted strategy to improve survival of both."

Maybe that's why a woman's female relatives gather round her while she's pregnant and during delivery. Perhaps there's something in the female psyche that knows this is a time of awful risk and danger, for both mother and child.

* * *

WHILE there is not yet "a standardized, evidence-based PNC protocol," there is some consensus on some of the more effective (and commonsensical, it seems) elements of care. The WHO has long recommended that postnatal care for all newborns should include "immediate and exclusive breast-feeding, warming of infants, hygienic care of the umbilical cord, and timely identification of danger signs with referral and treatment."

For mothers, recommended care includes monitoring and referral for complications such as excessive bleeding, pain and infection; counseling on breast care and breast-feeding; and advice on nutrition during breast-feeding, newborn care practices and family planning.

Among the most crucial elements of any PNC program is a corps of skilled health providers, including midwives and health workers, who can visit newly delivered mothers and babies at home for initial care and advice-giving. Home visits are a necessity especially in developing countries, like the Philippines, because most deliveries are made at home, and social restrictions and traditions may even prevent a mother from leaving her home (or her room) to seek treatment.

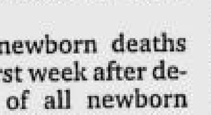
As the authors put it: "In most developing countries ... postnatal care may only occur if provided through home visits, because geographic, financial and cultural barriers typically limit care outside the home during the early postnatal period."

"The essential elements of postnatal care for newborns and for women are already known and established," say the authors. The issues remaining largely concern the integration of PNC protocols into the existing health system and, dare I say, the political will of leaders to give priority (and a commensurate share of the budget) to saving the lives of mothers and newborns when it counts most.

Elections as optical illusions

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David



IF WE CONTINUE TO HOLD ELECTIONS THE way the Commission on Elections held them in 2004 and 2007, it won't be long before we begin to believe that all elections are nothing but optical illusions. They look real, we experience them as real—but they are all really a mirage, a perception made possible by our mistaken beliefs and the naïve inferences we make about our world.

It would be difficult to sustain any form of community, let alone a nation, if people were led to think like this. Yet, by failing to invest adequate effort to maintain the credibility of elections, the Comelec is precisely encouraging the public to think of them as a sham, a fiction—which indeed they may have become in places like Maguindanao.

But, on the other hand, I think there is something we are gaining from this as we desperately struggle to make democracy work in our society. Our vision is gradually acquiring depth. Our growing familiarity with the various stages of the electoral process is making it possible for us to carefully follow the magician's hands, with a view to catching him in the middle of his trick. Thus, volunteer election watchdogs for the May 2007 election zeroed in on the making of the municipal and provincial certificates of canvass in specific provinces, instead of spreading their gaze nationwide.

In the aftermath of the 2004 presidential election, the public airing of the "Hello Garci" conversations generated tremendous curiosity, but failed to spark any enduring outrage. Why? I think it was because the picture of conspiracy and deception that the tapes brought forth was not as clear to most people as we thought it was. To be able to see the picture, people needed to have some background knowledge of the different phases of the electoral process itself—e.g., what happens to the votes after they are tallied at the precinct level, how precinct level results are transformed into municipal certificates of canvass (CoCs) and by whom, and how municipal CoCs in turn become the basis for preparing provincial CoCs. Only if one follows the whole series of steps of the electoral process does one begin to be aware of the countless blind spots where any magician may carry out a quick sleight-of-hand.

The media were not remiss in their duty to put the story of the Garci tapes in context. Various investigative and in-depth reports connected the dots and exposed a portrait of deceit that should have hounded the principal subject out of office. Caught in the act, the magician momentarily lost her poise, but carried on with her performance, gambling on the assumption that only a few had seen the trick. It worked, and so the magician lingers on the stage, long enough to talk about legacy.

The audience, however, has become wiser. And so in 2007, a replay of the same tricks, instead of being applauded, only elicits resentful recognition. Lintang Bedol, Maguindanao's elusive provincial election supervisor, confidently reprises his role as Garci's operator, but everyone sees what he is doing. Worse, like a ghost from the past, he brings back to the consciousness inconvenient images of a stolen national election that the smug among us have preferred to bury in their unconscious.

In the last days of the summer break, while cleaning my study, I stumbled upon my scribbled transcriptions of the Hello Garci tapes. Instinctively, I threw them into the dustbin, half in disgust and half in awareness that they belong to a moment in the nation's life that is long gone. But, as is my wont when discarding things on which I had spent so much time, I read them again and decided that they are as contemporary as today's news. But more than that, in the light of recent events, they sound more real. At last, Bedol is no longer just a name; he is also a face. Here is a conversation that took place on May 29, 2004 between Garci and his boss that refers to Bedol:

Ma'am: Hello, 40-plus *daw ang talo ko dun sa* Cotabato.

Garci: Ma'am?

Ma'am: More than 40.

Garci: More or less, *pero hindi siguro sosobra ng* 40 Ma'am. *Nag-usap na kami ni* Atty. Bedol.

Ma'am: *Ah ganon? So mali 'yung* figures *ni* Teng?

Garci: *Ah siguro, kasi 'yung si* Teng *kinausap ho niya ang* staff *ni* Atty. Bedol. *Kami ni* Atty. Bedol *nag-usap ho ngayon*. But I'll give you the exact figure Ma'am in a little while, *para ma-ano ninyo*. I'll give you the exact figure in a little while.

Ma'am: *Oo, pero*..... (line cut)

Nothing in these lines overtly indicates cheating. We may indeed read them as nothing more than an anxious candidate's attempt to get the latest information on the status of her votes. That is how Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo explained her calls to an election official in 2004. Such a reading, however, is naïve in the light of what we now know about lawyer Bedol and the outcome of the 2007 Maguindanao election for senatorial candidates.

The election did take place in Maguindanao as elsewhere in the country. The votes were tabulated at the precinct level, and these were collated at the municipal and provincial levels. What is in question is whether there is any correspondence between the precinct election returns and the results reported in the municipal and provincial CoCs.

We have seen enough to believe that a magician's hands were at work again in the 2007 election. We no longer find optical illusions amusing.

* * *

Comments to public.lives@gmail.com

THEY SAID

Ridiculous

"It is ridiculous for some congressmen, whose House failed the Filipino people, to argue about the merits of a law which their negligence and lack of will doomed to non-passage."

—Sen. Mar Roxas, furious after congressmen blamed the Senate for the House of Representatives' failure to pass the bill on cheaper medicines

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Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

Party-list system: Mathematical absurdity

By Oscar Franklin B. Tan

IMAGINE A LAND WITHOUT MEANINGFUL ELECTIONS. THE people, "singing the songs of angry men," throw off a dictator's yoke, with nuns holding flowers and rosaries leading a peaceful stand against tanks. Euphoric as democracy returns and basking in global admiration, the people proclaim that they shall never again be stripped of their sacred right of suffrage. In fact, they constitutionalize a radical new system that fills one-fifth of the House of Representatives with marginalized sectors' representatives.

Imagine, however, that when the fanfare ends and the votes are tallied, over half the seats in this special block of one-fifth are left mysteriously empty. This allegory describes the Philippine party-list system, and every unfilled seat represents a damning disenfranchisement and a dastardly blow to the great spirit of social justice immortalized in the 1987 Constitution.

Our Constitution's Article VI, Section 5 mandates that 20 percent of the House, currently 55 seats, shall be composed of representatives "elected through a party-list system of registered national, regional, and sectoral parties or organizations." After the 2004 elections, however, only 23 party-list representatives were seated, or 10 percent of the House.

> *The Party-List Act has a 2% threshold, but 55 seats x 2% is an impossible 110%, hence so many seats are left unfilled*

Reconciling conflicting visions in the 1986 Constitutional Commission (Concom), the Supreme Court in its 2001 Ang Bagong Bayani decision ruled: "The party-list system is a social justice tool designed not only to give more law to the great masses of our people who have less in life, but also to enable them to become veritable lawmakers themselves."

Thus, the system must cater solely to national, regional and sectoral parties of the marginalized and underrepresented. Ang Bagong Bayani warned: "[T]he law crafted to address the peculiar disadvantages of Payatas hovel dwellers cannot be appropriated by the mansion owners of Forbes Park."

This unifying constitutional philosophy, however, does not cure the Party-List Act's (Republic Act No. 7941) incomparably vague implementing formula. Section 11 reads: "[Parties] receiving at least two percent of the total votes cast for the party-list system shall be entitled to one seat each: Provided, That those garnering more than two percent of the votes shall be entitled to additional seats in proportion to their total number of votes." In addition, no party may receive more than three seats, a rule that limits the House influence a party may gain without fielding candidates in the regular district elections.

Impossible 2-percent threshold

The Commission on Elections soon discovered that it could not fill the required 20 percent of House seats. The culprit is the Party-List Act's 2-percent threshold.

A party must receive at least 2 percent of the votes to qualify for a seat. However, 55 seats multiplied by 2 percent is 110 percent of the vote, clearly an impossible figure only Garci could meet.

The 2-percent threshold appears based on the original 250 seats of the House—20 percent of 250 is 50, and 100 percent divided by 50 seats is 2 percent per seat.

However, even 50 seats will be filled only in the idealized scenario in which exactly 50 parties each receive exactly 2 percent of the vote. The moment a 51st party enters and receives 0.01 percent of the vote (or if one of the 50 parties receives 2.01 percent), the 50th seat will be left empty because the last 2 percent block cannot be completed. The 2 percent threshold's mathematical absurdity is increasingly obvious because the House expands to match population growth.

German system

Some Concom delegates discussed the German parliamentary electoral system, which has a similar threshold designed to ensure that winning parties have sufficiently large constituencies. This system, however, allocates seats for the entire parliament and deals with a handful of the country's largest parties. This is completely different from the Philippine party-list system, which deals with a large number of very small parties.

Further, while the German system also features a second vote at the national level, the German formula connects results from this second vote to the regular district elections, and assigns additional seats to parties that receive a higher proportion of second votes at the national level than first votes at the district level, which empowers dispersed constituencies. Lacking this crucial connection and given the completely different scale of parties involved, the Philippine formula has little in common with the German formula, contrary to the myth perpetuated in existing legal scholarship.

Supreme Court confusion

Thus, the imported concept of a 2-percent threshold must be viewed with trepidation, especially given how the Supreme Court has treated the three-seat cap, which has no equivalent in the German system.

The Supreme Court soon found itself caught between the Scylla of the Party-List Act's 2-percent threshold and the Charybdis of the Constitution's 20-percent requirement. Appallingly, it ruled in its 2000 *Veterans Federation Party* decision that the 20-percent requirement was merely a maximum figure. This disregarded the Constitution, the supreme law, and upheld the Party-List Act, an ordinary law.

Worse, the *Veterans* decision promulgated an electoral formula riddled with baseless mathematical errors that drive down the total party-list seats allocated.

Errors

The *Veterans* formula begins by allocating seats to the party with the highest vote. It allocates one seat for each 2 percent of the vote this first party has obtained, up to the three-seat cap. This is its first error, as *Veterans* fails to explain why the first party is subject to a separate formula, and fails to even explain the rationale for this separate formula (which appears to be the mathematically absurd 2 percent per seat ratio).

The *Veterans* formula then allocates seats to each other qualifying party. It assigns one seat each then allocates additional seats by dividing each party's vote by the first party's vote, then multiplying the result by the first party's additional seats beyond its first (usually two). In its second error and contrary to the Party-List Act requirement, the *Veterans* formula is not proportional and does not form a rough straight line when graphed. *(See chart beside Figure 3)*

(Using Buhay's present 8.10 percent, the formula would allocate no seats to parties with 0-1.99 percent, one to those with 2.00-4.04 percent, and two to those with 4.05-8.09 percent.)

The *Veterans* formula allows only the first party to receive the maximum number of seats, its third error. Even if the second party obtains just one vote less, it will still receive one seat less. This breaks proportionality because such results are practically equal, since one cannot allocate fractions of seats.

Worse, the strongest parties are irrationally forced to compete because only one will be allotted the three-seat maximum no matter how high their percentages.

Inconsistent

Further, the *Veterans* formula produces inconsistent results that depend solely on the first party's votes.

Its fourth error is that it continues to count the first party's votes in excess of 6 percent, the maximum considered by the separate first-party formula. That is, it allocates three seats to the first party whether it has received 6 percent, 20 percent or 50 percent of the votes.

However, the higher the first party's votes, the less seats the *Veterans* formula allocates to all other parties, and we are only beginning to observe the catastrophic results now that very strong parties with disproportionately high percentages are emerging. For example, if the first party obtains 20 percent of the votes, other parties will be allocated two seats only if they obtain at least 10 percent.

Finally, as the *Veterans* formula's fifth error, its two subformulas are inconsistent. If the first party obtains exactly 6 percent, other parties will receive two seats if they obtain at least 3 percent, which contradicts the first-party formula (which requires 4 percent for two seats). At present, Buhay leads with 8.10 percent and the *Veterans* formula would allocate only two seats to second placer Bayan Muna despite its very high 6.59 percent, or enough for three seats under the separate first-party formula.

Further, were Buhay's percentage lower, say 6 percent, the inconsistent formula would allocate two seats instead of one to Apec, with 3.50 percent.

Proposed formula

A proper party-list formula need only fulfill two simple goals: 1) It must fill up 20 percent of House seats; and 2) Seat allocation must be proportional, including allocations to losing parties.

In this proposed formula, one selects a party, then divides each party's votes by the chosen party's votes. One then drops decimals from the resulting ratios, and assigns that many seats to each party, up to the three-seat maximum. If the total number of seats assigned exceeds 55, one chooses another party with less votes, and vice-versa.

If no divisor yields exactly 55 seats, one assigns the empty seats to parties with the highest decimal components in their ratios, ignoring the seats already allocated. This remains proportional because "excess" votes represented in each party's decimal component still give that party an equal chance to obtain an additional seat. (This tiebreaker function is similar to the German system's Niemeyer tiebreaker, which cannot be used whenever the 2-percent threshold is used, as the number of empty seats is so high that there are simply no ties to break and the result becomes absurd.)

This proposed formula creates an implicit threshold based on how parties' votes are distributed. Should one wish to add a fixed threshold (say, 100,000 votes), one simply does not assign seats to parties below this threshold. Similarly, the three-seat cap may be increased and the formula works the same way.

Solving the problem

Applying the formula, one chooses Agham and divides all parties' percentages by its 1.03 percent. This yields 53 seats, plus two assigned to Akbayan and An Waray because of their very high decimal components of 0.97 and 0.91, respectively. (Dividing all parties' votes by 135,000 yields the same result.)

This result is proportional because each party receives one seat for each 1.03 percent, and the formula ignores the strongest parties' votes beyond the three-seat cap so as not to drive down other parties' allocations.

The *Veterans* formula, in contrast, will allocate only a piddling 20 seats, with only Buhay receiving the full three seats. Note that although the proposed formula assigns seats to parties with only 1 percent, this is because it factors the vote dispersal unique to the Philippine system and its large number of small parties.

It is imperative that the mathematically absurd 2-percent threshold be struck down, whether by the Supreme Court or by legislators, and the *Veterans* formula abandoned given how its flaws are all the more evident with a first party such as Buhay obtaining far more votes than the others.

This threshold aside, it is clearly possible to allocate the full 20 percent of the House promised by the Constitution in a proportional manner. We bewail "bogus" party-list groups and confused listings of parties at the precincts, but we must also reform the electoral formula itself to enable party-list representatives to actually sit in Congress. Our Constitution must be protected from a dictator's lust for power and our laws' mathematical shortcomings.

(Oscar Franklin B. Tan graduated from Harvard Law School on June 7, where he was chosen to speak at the commencement ceremony, and from the UP College of Law in 2005, where he chaired the Philippine Law Journal. He graduated from the Ateneo de Manila in 2001, majoring in Management Engineering and Economics. This article is adapted from "The Philippine Party-List Experiment: A Tragedy of Flawed Mathematics and Policy" (Philippine Law Journal, Volume 78, page 735), his 76-page-freshman-year article informally supervised by Dean Pacifico Agabin and awarded UP Law's first Justice Vicente V. Mendoza legal writing prize. The article can be downloaded at http://www.xavier97.com/oscar.)

Figure 1: Separate Veterans first-party formula

Percentage of votes	Seats
0 - 1.99	0
2.00 - 3.99	1+0
4.00 - 5.99	1+1
6.00 or higher	1+2

Problem: Veterans does not explain why there is a separate formula for the first party. It also does not explain the rationale behind this separate formula.

(Note: The notation "1+0," "1+1" and "1+2" instead of "1," "2" and "3" is intentional because the Veterans formula returns additional seats after the first. This actually creates a mathematical problem not discussed in the article.)

Figure 2: Veterans formula seat allocation for 2007 elections

Percentage of vote of party / 8.10% (Buhay percentage) X 2 seats (additional seats allocated to Buhay)

Problems:

- Only the first party can get the maximum three seats, because the Veterans formula's result can never reach two additional seats for any other party. (The ratio on the left is always less than one.)
- The Veterans formula continues to count the first party's votes in excess of the maximum 6% counted by the separate formula for the first party. This drives down every other party's seat allocation.
- The first party formula and the formula applied to other parties are inconsistent.
- The Veterans seat allocation (left) is not proportional, especially when one factors the allocation to losing parties. Consider the example where the first party obtains exactly 6% of the vote. ***(See Figure 3)***

Figure 3: Veterans seat allocation if first party obtains 6% (not proportional)

Percentage of votes	Seats
0 - 1.99	0
2.00 - 2.99	1+0
3.00 - 5.99	1+1
6.00	1+2 (first party only)

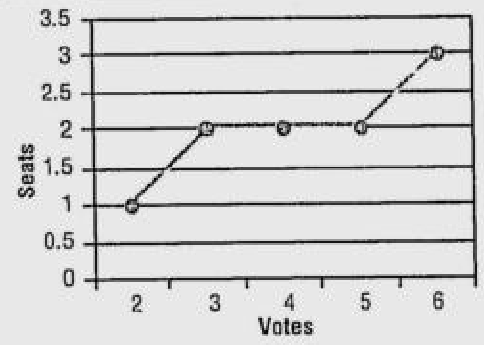

Figure 4: Veterans formula seat allocation given Buhay's 8.10% (not proportional)

Percentage of votes	Seats
0 - 1.99	0
2.00 - 4.04	1+0
4.05 - 8.09	1+1
8.10	1+2 (Buhay only)

Problem: The Veterans formula is inconsistent and drives down other parties' seat allocations using Buhay's high percentage. Bayan Muna, with 6.59%, would have obtained three seats under the separate first-party formula. Apec, with 3.50%, would have obtained two seats if Buhay's percentage were lower.

Figure 5: Proposed seat allocation (using Agham's 1.03% as benchmark)

Percentage of votes	Seats
0 - 1.02	0
1.03 - 2.05	1
2.06 - 3.08	2
3.09 or higher	3

Party's percentage / 1.03% (Agham's percentage) X Seat allocation (drop fractions, subject to tiebreaker function)

Figure 6: Application of proposed formula using latest Comelec data (as of June 9)

Party	Party's votes	Party % of vote	Proposed formula ratio	Proposed formula seat assign	Supreme Court formula ratio	Supreme Court seat assign
TOTAL	13,719,165	-	-	55	-	20
Buhay	1,111,035	8.10	7.84	3 (7)	2.00	1+2
Bayan Muna	903,600	6.59	6.37	3 (6)	1.63	1+1
Cibac	720,153	5.25	5.08	3 (5)	1.30	1+1
Gabriela	566,571	4.13	4.00	3 (4)	1.02	1+1
Apec	479,608	3.50	3.38	3	0.86	1+0
A Teacher	446,929	3.26	3.15	3	0.80	1+0
Akbayan	420,910	3.07	2.97	2+1	0.76	1+0
Butil	403,209	2.94	2.84	2	0.73	1+0
Alagad	402,918	2.94	2.84	2	0.73	1+0
Batas	360,277	2.63	2.54	2	0.65	1+0
Coop-Natco	341,971	2.49	2.41	2	0.62	1+0
Anakpawis	340,392	2.48	2.40	2	0.61	1+0
Abono	333,603	2.43	2.35	2	0.60	1+0
Agap	319,311	2.33	2.25	2	0.57	1+0
ARC	295,499	2.15	2.08	2	0.53	1+0
An Waray	270,791	1.97	1.91	1+1	0.49	0
FPJPM	258,773	1.89	1.83	1	0.47	0
Amin	252,250	1.84	1.78	1	0.45	0
ABS	213,927	1.56	1.51	1	0.39	0
Kabataan	211,074	1.54	1.49	1	0.38	0
Aba-Ako	205,344	1.50	1.45	1	0.37	0
Senior Citizens	198,948	1.45	1.40	1	0.36	0
Kakusa	190,368	1.39	1.34	1	0.34	0
VFP	183,779	1.34	1.30	1	0.33	0
Uni-Mad	182,354	1.33	1.29	1	0.33	0
Anad	169,525	1.24	1.20	1	0.31	0
Banat	167,222	1.22	1.18	1	0.30	0
Abakada	161,141	1.17	1.14	1	0.29	0
Bantay	160,568	1.17	1.13	1	0.29	0
1-Utak	154,589	1.13	1.09	1	0.28	0
Cocofed	145,176	1.06	1.02	1	0.26	0
Agham	141,773	1.03	1.00	1	0.26	0

Solution: If the mathematically absurd 2% threshold is struck down, the proposed formula completely fills up the constitutionally required 20% of the House in a proportional manner, factoring in the vote dispersion unique to the Philippine party-list system. The strong parties' high votes do not drive down other parties' votes.

92
Number
of party-list groups

13.7 million
Count of votes
for party-list groups
as of June 9

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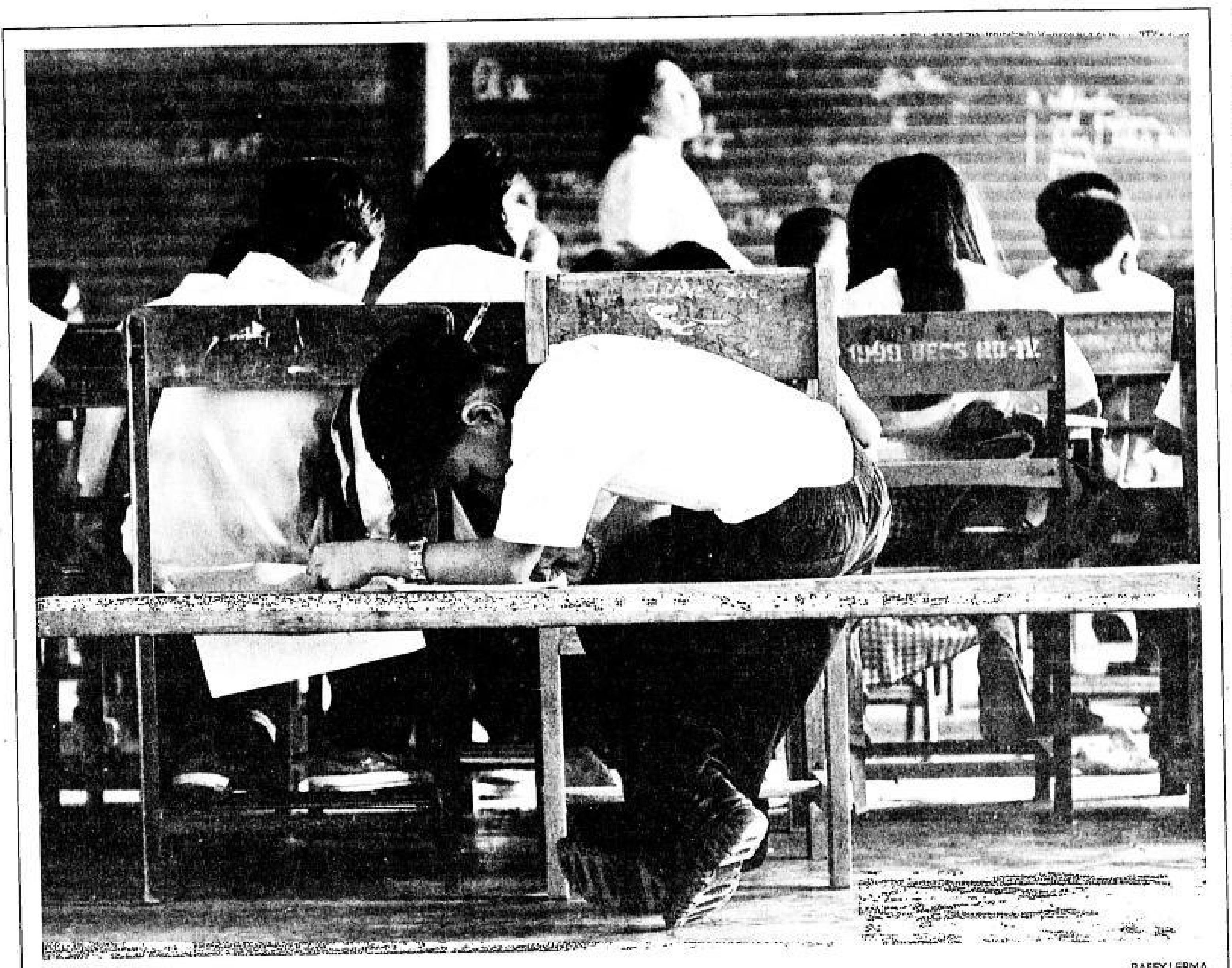
5 provinces in the dark on poll results



RAFFY LERMA

BENDING SPACE
A pupil makes use of the space available for him at an elementary school in Taysan, Batangas. Congestion in classrooms in the town was made worse by the burning of a school building believed perpetrated by top officials to pave the way for the election victory of a pro-administration candidate.

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—THE LEAGUE OF PROVINCES OF the Philippines (LPP) warned the Commission on Elections (Comelec) that the failure to proclaim winners in the gubernatorial race of five provinces could lead to disorder.

LPP spokesperson and Eastern Visayas Gov. Ben Evardone urged the Comelec to proclaim the winners to prevent a "vacuum in leadership," which might lead to "chaos."

Evardone said the 81-member LPP is concerned about the possible impact of the delay in determining the winning candidates as the terms of office of the current governors are to expire on June 30.

He noted that more than a month after the May 14 elections, winners in the provinces of Antique, Isabela, Shariff Kabunsuan, Laguna and Cagayan have not been proclaimed.

Protests, protests

The Comelec has yet to proclaim the winners in most of these provinces due to pre-proclamation protests, said Evardone.

Reelectionist Gov. Salvacion Zaldivar-Perez and her closest rival, former assemblyman Arturo Pacificador, are the leading contenders in the gubernatorial race in Antique.

In Isabela, the post is still being contested by reelectionist governor Maria Gracia Cielo Padaca and former governor Benjamin Dy. The Comelec has yet to declare who between reelectionist Gov. Edgar Lara and Alvaro Antonio won in the recent elections in Cagayan.

Protests have also stalled the proclamation of the winning gubernatorial candidate in Laguna between reelectionist Gov. Teresita Lazaro and Edwin Olivarez, which was delayed by protests in Biñan town. The Biñan case has been resolved and canvassing was to resume tomorrow.

The Comelec on Friday denied a petition filed by the son-in-law of Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos to declare elections in Biñan a failure.

Vacuum feared

At least 18,000 votes have yet to be counted in the town. Vice Mayor Marlyn Alonte is leading the mayoral race with 29,781 votes against Jose Ruben Yatco, Abalos' son-in-law, who has 23,404 votes.

The newly created province of Shariff Kabunsuan has been placed under Comelec control for election-related violence and security concerns. None among the three candidates—incumbent Gov. Bimbo Sinsuat, former Sultan Kudarat Mayor Tocao Mastura and former Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao governor Zacaria Candao—has been proclaimed.

Evardone said the early proclamation of the winning candidates would "prevent hiatus in the delivery of basic services to the people" and would give justice to the winners.

It would also prevent "legal controversies and misinterpretations" that might arise on June 30 on who will assume the gubernatorial post, he added.

He said that they do not want to raise unnecessary alarm, "but a vacuum in leadership might spur uncertainty and restlessness among the people in these areas."

"There is a growing impatience and anxiety among the people. And we are concerned why it is taking too long for the Comelec to resolve the issues," Evardone said in telephone interview.

He said the league does not want the tension and anxiety to erupt into violence, especially between supporters of contending parties and candidates. *With a report from Niña Catherine Calleja, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Cordillera plans massive reforestation

By Delmar Cariño
Inquirer Northern Luzon

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—THE threat of global warming has added a new dimension to renewed efforts of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to save the Cordillera's declining forest cover.

Samuel Peñafiel, DENR regional director, said the department this year would pursue a massive reforestation in the region to improve its forest cover and fight the effects of climate change.

"Our tasks have doubled. We will plant more trees to save the forests on the ground and to protect the air above," he said.

He said this year's massive tree planting would take off from the success of last year's Green Philippine Highways program that saw the planting of trees along major roads in the Cordillera and other parts of the country.

A total of 17,781 people and groups in the region participated in the program and planted 108,190 different species of tree seedlings and ornamental plants.

Peñafiel said the program would be expanded to cover all forests, watersheds, communal forests, protected parks and other areas that need to be rehabilitated.

The DENR and the National Irrigation Administration on Friday signed an agreement for a joint effort to "regreen" the region's forests and watershed resources.

The Cordillera has 1.52 million hectares of forestland. It also hosts the four major river systems—Chico, Agno, Magat and Abra—that provide water to several dams in lowland provinces.

Peñafiel said trees play a crucial role against global warming.

"Trees absorb a lot of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere particularly during their growing years," he said.

The challenge is to keep Cordillera's forests green to maintain ecological balance and at the same time help ward off the consequences of global warming, he said.

He said the program in the region would include the propagation of indigenous tree species that, he noted, are also slowly becoming extinct.

Among them, he said, are gmelina, Aurecurios reformis, narek, molave, mahogany, sangilo and ipil-ipil which are endemic to the region.

He said planting these indigenous species could help prolong the life of Cordillera's forests.

Gov says mills should learn lessons on pollution

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—GOV. JOSEPH Marañon said the temporary closure order issued by Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes against Victorias Milling Co. for air and water pollution should serve as a warning to other sugar mills in Negros Occidental violating environmental laws.

The issuance of the cease-and-desist order on VMC was timely as it was done during the Environment Week and showed that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources was serious in ensuring compliance with environmental protection and conservation laws, he said.

The CDO issued by Reyes was served on VMC last Thursday.

Marañon said the mill management should exhaust all means to stop pollution. The VMC could not use its financial difficulties as a reason for its failure to meet water waste standards, he added.

VMC president Abelardo Bugay said VMC was addressing the problems to ensure that the mill would be ready for the milling season expected to start in the first week of September.

Reyes, in his order, was responding to a complaint of Canetown Subdivision residents regarding ash falls allegedly emanating from the smoke stacks of the company.

Bugay said Thursday that VMC was also committed to putting up a cooling tower to stop the water pollution.

It is also committed to put wet gas scrubbers in its six chimneys to prevent air pollution, he said.

However, he said, VMC would need an approval from the Securities and Exchange Commission for expenses for pollution preventive measures since the company is under rehabilitation.

Family of OFW facing execution seeks help

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—THE family of an overseas Filipino worker facing execution in Riyadh has appealed for help from Malacañang.

Merly Esteva, mother of four children and wife of OFW Joven Esteva, told reporters here that only President Macapagal-Arroyo can save the life of her husband.

Esteva claimed that her husband left for abroad in April last year. He was employed as a family driver in Riyadh.

However, she said, just recently her husband called up and told her he wanted to go home. He even reportedly asked for money to buy a plane ticket for his trip back home.

She said she sent the money and since then there has been no communication between them.

The last piece of news she heard about her husband was he was already in jail for killing his employer and for stabbing the two children of his employer. The children survived.

Merly believed the case had something to do with the decision of her husband to go home.

Until now, she said, she could hardly believe what happened.

The family of Esteva first asked the help of Sultan Kudarat Gov. Pax Mangudadatu.

Mangudadatu appealed to the President to take action this early.

The governor said the Department of Foreign Affairs and Malacañang should investigate. *Aquiles Z. Zonio, Inquirer Mindanao*

Comelec sets hearing on fraud rap in Lanao Norte polls

COTABATO CITY—THE COMMISSION on Elections has scheduled on June 26 its hearing for the exclusion of election returns from three towns of Lanao del Norte in connection with the still unresolved congressional race for the first legislative district that is being fiercely contested by administration candidate Imelda Quibranza-Dimaporo and opposition rival Vicente Belmonte.

Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos said Friday that the poll body's second division, composed of Commissioners Rene Sarmiento, Nicodemo Ferrer and Jaime Tuazon, has been tasked with resolving the Dimaporo-Belmonte pre-proclamation case.

The opposition said the elections have been marred by poll irregularities based on documents retrieved in the towns of Maigo, Bacolod and Kauswagan in Lanao del Norte.

The special board of canvassers, in its official tally, had declared Dimaporo winner by more than 7,000 votes against Belmonte, whose lawyers have petitioned Comelec to stop Dimaporo, Lanao del Norte's incumbent governor, from being proclaimed on allegations that election returns in the three towns were manufactured.

Abalos said the second division, chaired by Tuazon, will hear the oral arguments of both camps, especially on the Dimaporo legal opinion that the poll body has no jurisdiction over pre-proclamation cases.

Lead counsel Pete Quirino Quadra cited two Supreme Court rulings (Pangilinan v Comelec and Lazatin v House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal) as basis for his client's pre-proclamation appeal denying petitions for exclusion of the certificates of canvass in the three Lanao towns.

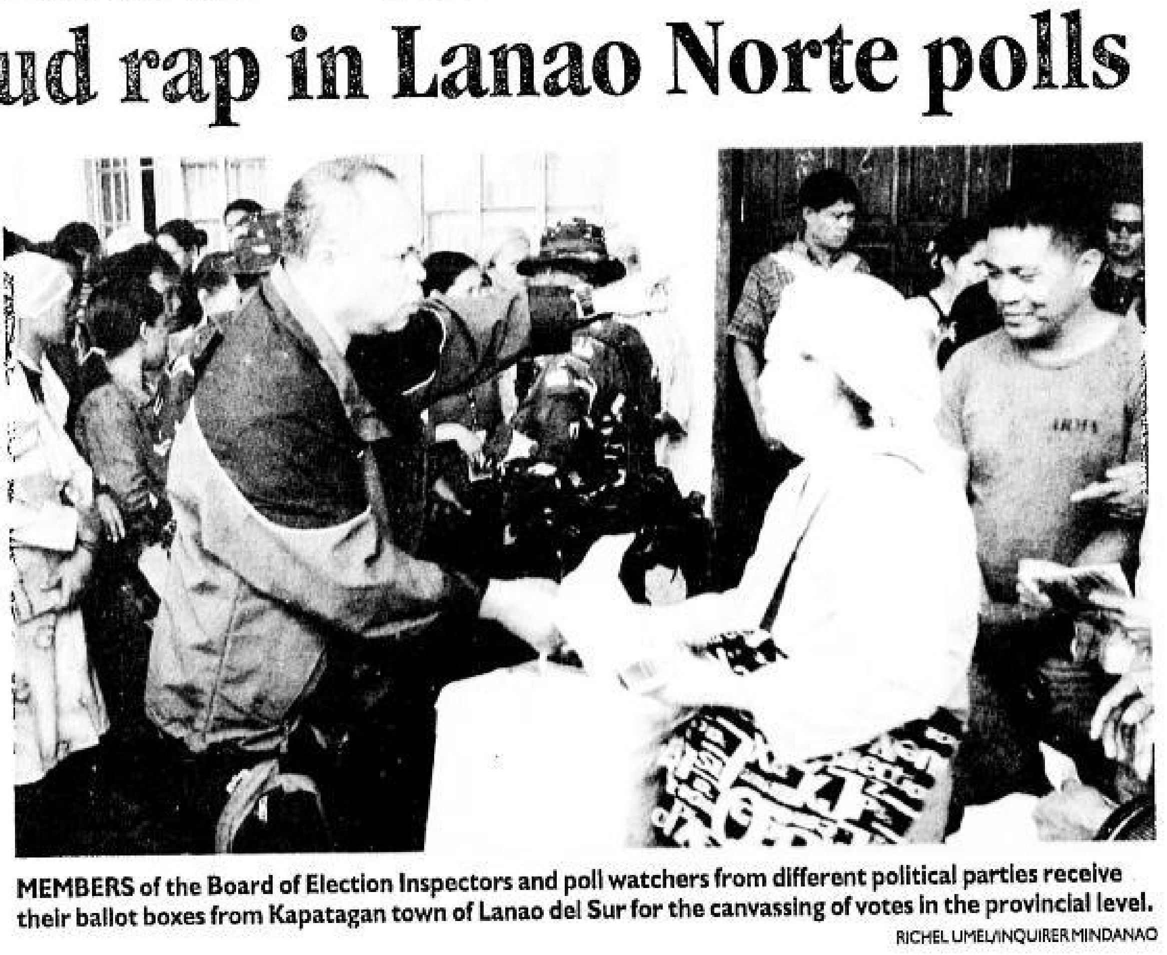
Quadra also argued that election laws provide that the House electoral tribunal is the only authorized body to handle pre-proclamation appeals, and not the Comelec which lacks jurisdiction over the case.

Quadra said the law is clear that the poll body has no jurisdiction over Belmonte's pre-proclamation case.

The HRET consists of nine members (three SC justices and six congressmen).

Lawyers Elcid Javier and Oga Mapupuno have joined Quadra's position that the HRET "shall be the sole judge" in pre-proclamation controversies involving candidates for congressional seats.

They also expressed the belief that the Comelec is likely to proclaim Dimaporo as the winning candidate in the May 14 elections for congressman in the district immediately after the June 26 scheduled hearing in Intramuros, Manila. *Charlie C. Señase, Inquirer Mindanao*



MEMBERS of the Board of Election Inspectors and poll watchers from different political parties receive their ballot boxes from Kapatagan town of Lanao del Sur for the canvassing of votes in the provincial level.

RICHEL UMEL/INQUIRER MINDANAO

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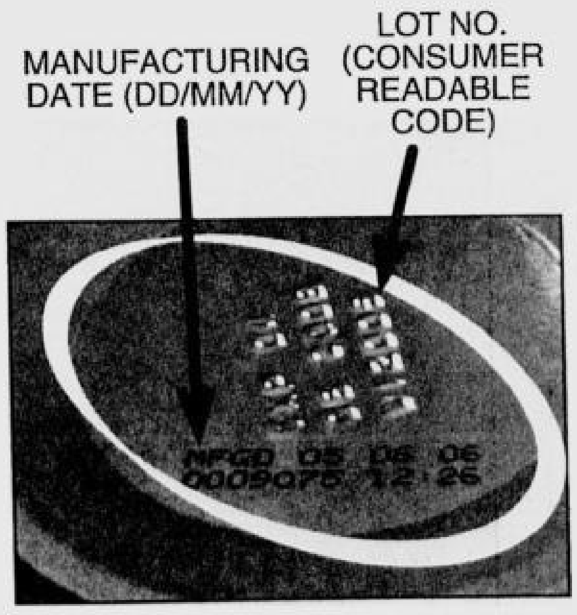
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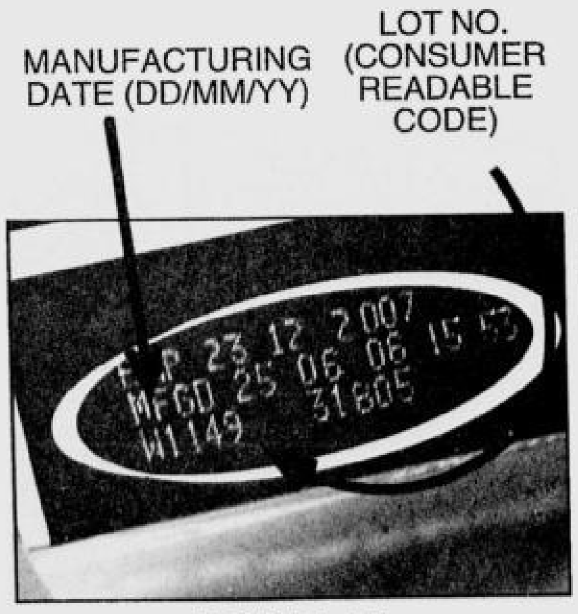
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W13090A	06-13090	06/16/06
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W13095	06-13095	06/17/06
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W13120	06-13120	07/11/06
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Street kids learn life skills in center

By Dennis Santos
Davao City

AT 13, DODONG (NOT HIS real name) had been in and out of prison for various offenses.

He became a street child by choice, reasoning out that life had always been hard for him even when he was living with his parents.

During his early days on the street, he became involved in a gang that committed petty crimes mainly because of their adventurism and addiction to solvent.

The future looked promising when an American woman took him in. Under her care, he enjoyed toys and expensive clothes. But the call of the street was too difficult to ignore. Dodong left home anew.

One day, Dodong and his friends stole a motorcycle. Many of them were later arrested and were locked up for several days.

Alvin Alayon, 19, said his story is very similar to that of Dodong. At 13, he also went to prison.

But Alvin said things changed when he came to the Bahay Pasilungan in Bankerohan District.

He, Dodong and several other children are now learning something worthwhile.

Bahay Pasilungan is a private effort aimed at keeping destitute children away from crime, abuse, danger and other frightening experiences.

Before Bahay Pasilungan was established in 1989, Fr. Pat Devlin, a Marist missionary, had been reaching out to children in the streets.

Then he realized that the children needed more than just inspiring words. He started a drop-in center for the children.

Lawyer Antonio Partoza, chair of Bahay Pasilungan's board of trustees, said the building that they now occupy was built in 1992 through donations, including those from the social fund of then President Corazon Aquino, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, the Aboitiz Foundation and the Marfori family.

Bro. Richard Joyal, a Canadian Marist missionary who now heads Bahay Pasilungan, said his experience in a similar facility in India has been helping him run the facility with colleague Oscar Kerketta.

CHILDREN in Bahay Pasilungan are trained to become productive. DENNIS JAY SANTOS

In 1990, it became a charity institution.

Since then, Bahay Pasilungan volunteers and social workers had sheltered, fed, clothed and counseled dozens of children.

The children are also taught values that could make them overcome their problems. They are also taught livelihood skills, such as shoe-shining, baking, motorcycle repair, hair-grooming and others.

Alvin has learned how to cut hair and now earns money, which helps send his younger siblings to school.

"I am very grateful to them, my life has really changed," he said of the staff of Bahay Pasilungan.

"There are lots of success stories about children who had already gone out. They became productive citizens," Partoza said.

"It is hard work, but I know there is dignity in it," social worker Marites Salazar said.

"They don't want rules, but we have to give them 'life-skills' and values formation if they are to improve in life," she added.

Joyal said they really need more help to continue the endeavor, not only financially but also in terms of volunteers for their outreach program.

Those who want to help Bahay Pasilungan can call up (082) 2212922 or (082)2214442.

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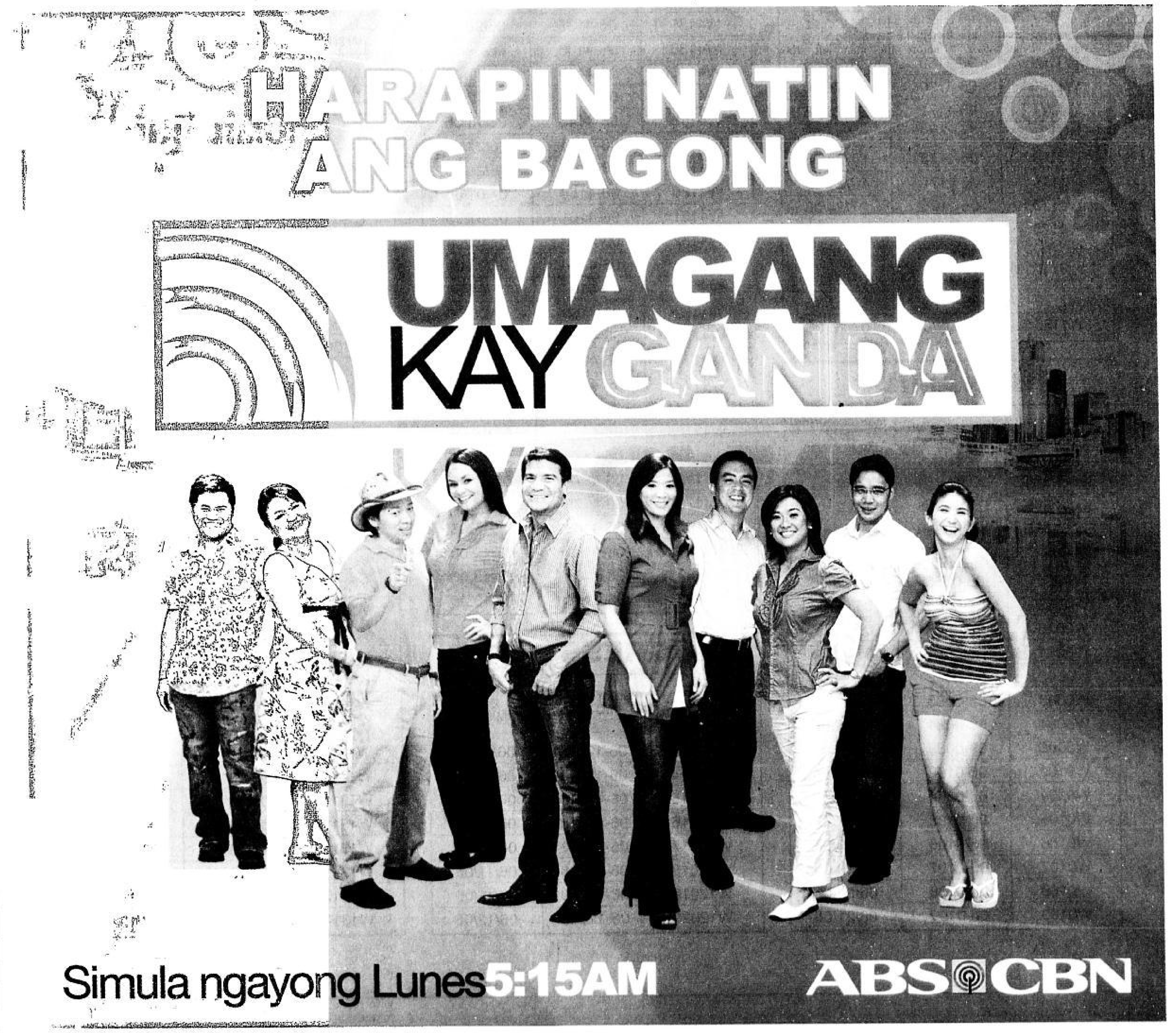
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Clark execs to seal off oil tanks where 3 scavengers died

CLARK FREEPORT—SECURITY officials here have sent patrol teams to cordon off portions of an oil depot formerly operated by the United States military.

They also proposed to dismantle or seal off three idle tanks there to prevent a repeat of the accident that killed three men on Wednesday.

The recommendations to evaluate and remove or cover the structures with cement came after a rescue team from the Philippine Air Force pulled out the third and last victim at 9:30 p.m. on Friday, according to Senior Supt. Nicanor Targa, chief of the public safety office of Clark Development Corp.

It took the PAF team almost 45 hours to recover the body of Jonel Cuenco, 27. The two other victims—Renato Medina, 38, and Renato Genese, 27—had been retrieved on Thursday. They died after the cover of Tank No. 9 split and crashed on them.

The three men, together with five others, were reportedly looting the tank of metal by melting the cover's side braces through the use of acetylene torches.

The five escaped by fleeing to a narrow underground canal, which they used to enter the tank.

It was 32 feet high, 137 feet in diameter and embedded in the mountains of Barangay Sapang Bato, Angeles City, which is southwest (not north as earlier reported) of Clark's perimeter fence.

Targa said rescue workers entered the tank, swam in murky rainwater that had pooled inside and searched for the bodies amid mounds of metal that threatened to collapse again.

He said officials in Sapang Bato have been asked to advise villagers not to go near any of the three tanks.

These, as well as the six used by the Coastal PTT, belonged to the petroleum, oil and lubricant (POL) farm of the United States' 13th Air Force.

The POL, which used to have a storage capacity of 25 million gallons, extends to the former Subic Naval Base in Zambales across Clark through a metal pipeline. *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*

A MOUNTAIN of garbage rises in Iloilo City, a reminder of the many tragedies that befell the poor who try their luck in rummaging through other people's wastes to earn a living.

ARNOLD ALMACEN/INQUIRER VISAYAS

Terror strikes picket line in Cavite factory

CAMP VICENTE LIM, LAGUNA—Two officers of a striking union were wounded after armed men wearing bonnets attacked their picket line inside the Philippine Economic Zone Authority industrial park in Rosario, Cavite over the weekend, a nongovernment organization said.

In a statement sent to the INQUIRER, the Workers Assistance Center (WAC) said two of the unidentified knife-wielding men attacked Florencia Arevalo and Resurreccion Ravelo, secretary and president, respectively, of the Nagkakaisang Manggagawa sa Chong Won.

Fr. Jose Dizon, WAC executive director, said the two suffered bruises as they resisted the men who raided their picket line near the factory of the C. Woo Trading Inc. (CWTI) located inside the Cavite Economic Zone in Rosario town at around 8:30 p.m. on June 9.

Dizon said at least eight men with crowbars and knives who appeared to be drunk alighted from a van with license plate UVD 390 and attacked the striking workers who were manning their makeshift tent.

The attackers, Dizon said, held the workers "at knife point while the men started dismantling their makeshift tents, throwing all their personal belongings and food in the street."

Before the men left, they threatened to kill the workers if they didn't bring their nine-month strike to an end.

"Their attackers left them (the workers) laughing," Dizon said.

Just a few hours after the attack, around 20 men wearing bonnets again attacked the still traumatized workers at around 3:30 a.m. on June 10.

This time, the attackers had M16 assault rifles and wore fatigue uniforms.

Arevalo said the men were on board three vehicles with the license plates covered, apparently to avoid being identified.

"They rounded up (us) in one corner of their vehicle and ordered (us) to lie face down while the barrel end of the M16 rifles pointed at (our) head. The armed men… totally demolished the remaining structures of (our) makeshift tents…," Arevalo recalled.

Arevalo said when they tried to question the men, one of the attackers boasted that they were paid P2 million to destroy the worker's picket line.

She said the men "even challenged" them to seek police assistance.

"They (the attackers) threatened to kill us one by one if they still saw our strike in the morning. They also robbed us of our cell phones, camera, wallet, and other personal belongings," Arevalo lamented.

Arevalo then claimed that the P2 million purse allegedly paid by the management to stop their strike was the third payment made by the owners of CWTI.

She said they received information that CWTI management first paid P50,000 as bribe to labor officials to cancel their union.

She said another P300,000 was given to some government officials to declare their strike as illegal.

Ravelo said they believed the attackers could be members of the Peza police or military and police agents hired to harass their members.

Sought for comment, Chief Insp. Audie Madrideo, Rosario police chief, denied having knowledge of the attack.

Madrideo said the workers did not seek any police assistance when the two attacks supposedly happened.

"But even if it did not happen, we do not have any jurisdiction over the Peza area. The special economic zone has its own police unit," Madrideo said in a mobile phone interview.

CWTI has been on strike after the management declined to enter into a new collective bargaining agreement and reinstate the dismissed union officials who were dismissed in September last year. *Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

2 commanding generals see no threat in Trillanes

SUPPORTERS of Trillanes show their support as they rally in front of the Commission on Elections in Manila June 15. Trillanes, 36, who allegedly led a failed mutiny against President Macapagal-Arroyo in 2003, was officially declared senator after winning a seat in recent elections while facing charges.

REM ZAMORA

By Jolene R. Bulambot
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—TWO MILITARY generals here believe that senator-elect Antonio Trillanes would not be a threat to the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Instead, they see him as an added asset to the military organization.

Lt. Gen. Cardozo Luna, Central Command chief, told the INQUIRER that Trillanes, along with other former military officials who made it to the Senate like Gringo Honasan, Panfilo Lacson and Rodolfo Biazon, would be helping push for further reforms in the AFP.

Luna said the AFP is looking into a positive way the reasons Trillanes was elected as senator despite his involvement in the Oakwood mutiny.

"We always think about the negative. But as we can see it in the positive way, maybe the reason he was voted by the people is because he could do changes in the political system using the parliamentary process and not through a coup d'etat. It happened to Senator (Gregorio) Honasan," he said.

Aside from the civilians, there were soldiers who really voted for Trillanes and the senator-elect's bailiwick in the May 14 election was the military, Luna said.

But the military official clarified that this does not mean many soldiers sympathized with Trillanes' cause. Despite what he had done (in staging the Oakwook mutiny), Trillanes received votes from the military because he is part of the organization.

"We in the military, we have this so-called brotherhood and when you enter the service there is this kind of relationship, fraternity. whatever persuasion one is taking, the soldiers would still look at you as a soldier," Luna said.

Luna earlier denied reports that the military officials have discouraged their subordinates from supporting Trillanes and instead pushed for the administration slate Team Unity.

He said the soldiers were given a free hand to choose their candidates without pressure from their superiors.

In a separate interview, Brig. Gen. Arthur Mancenido, Air Force 205th Tactical Helicopter Wing commander, dismissed speculations that Trillanes could destabilize the government.

Mancenido said Trillanes could push for reforms because he could articulate the needs of the soldiers.

"It is normal for soldiers to vote for him. He serves as their hope and they have expectations that he can do something for the betterment of the organization," Mancenido said.

8 remote Eastern Visayas villages to get solar power

By Vicente S. Labro
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—EIGHT REmote villages in Eastern Visayas that have not yet been energized will soon get electric power from the sun.

Solar-powered electricity would be made available before the end of this year in Barangay Basiao in Majaba Island in Catbalogan, Samar and the remote barangays of Literon, Minata and Lubang in Calbiga town of Samar province; and Busay and Sto. Tomas in Las Navas town and Hitapian and San Vicente in Catubig town, both in Northern Samar.

These eight villages, which are within the Agrarian Reform Communities (ARCs) of the Department of Agrarian Reform, have remained without electricity due to their isolation.

These Samar and Northern Samar ARCs have been identified as beneficiaries of the DAR's Solar Power Technology Support (SPOTS) project, a $26-million project funded by the Spanish government through the 1997 RP-Spain Memorandum of Understanding on financial cooperation.

The Department of Energy and the National Electrification Administration are assisting the DAR in implementing the project.

Phase I of the SPOTS project was implemented in Mindanao in 2003-2005 in 40 ARCs in 16 provinces. The second phase, which is now being implemented, covers 44 ARCs in 15 provinces in the Visayas and Mindanao, which will benefit around 55,000 households.

Candida Dabuet-Labro, the regional SPOTS monitoring and evaluation coordinator here, said the project uses photovoltaic energy systems as a means to introduce social and livelihood projects in the ARCs.

She said providing these ARCs with electricity would not only allow children to study at night but would also enable parents to engage in productive endeavors even during nighttime like dressmaking, weaving, embroidery or processing food that could be sold early the next day.

Under the SPOTS project, the beneficiaries-communities will get streetlights and electricity in their homes, barangay halls and school buildings.

Warrants pile up for arrest of vice mayor in estafa

URDANETA CITY—ANOTHER warrant of arrest was issued against Vice Mayor-elect Mila Antonio of Asingan, Pangasinan, after more people she had allegedly victimized sued her for large-scale estafa.

In the arrest order, Judge Tita Villarin of the regional trial court here also recommended no bail for Antonio and her associate, Lourdes Dioquino.

Judge Joven Costales of the RTC Branch 45 here earlier ordered the arrest of Antonio and Dioquino following the complaint of a businesswoman and her sisters that the two had defrauded them of some P53.28 million in the last two years.

The latest complainants—Carlos Calica, spouses Agustin and Nenita Piso and Tristan Gabbyarch Barredo—said Antonio and her associates took some P5.95 million from them as "investments."

In his sworn statement, Calica, 64, told an agent of the special task force office of the National Bureau of Investigation that he was introduced to Antonio by Dioquino sometime in 2003.

At that time, Calica said, Antonio just wanted to borrow P20,000 from him at 10 percent interest for two months.

After two months, Calica said he was told by Antonio that she was selling parcels of land in Barangay Nancayasan here to the Ayala Land Corp. and if he wanted to invest, his P100,000 would become P1 million in just a few months.

Calica agreed and remitted different amounts to Antonio, Dioquino, Merla Faye Velasco and Roger Estrada from August 2003 to December 2006 totaling P4.8 million.

Velasco and Estrada have been included in Calica's complaint.

Calica said part of the money he lost to Antonio and associates came from his sister, nephew and niece.

The Piso couple, who invested some P1 million, was told the same supposed land deal with Ayala Land and the same earnings for their money.

In a joint affidavit, they said they became suspicious when Antonio was spending millions of pesos for her candidacy as vice mayor in Asingan town.

"We confronted her and requested her to immediately return our money but she assured us that our money was safe," the Piso couple said.

In April, the couple said Antonio gave them her truck worth P360,000 as partial payment for their investments.

Barredo, 47, said he and his wife Imelda invested P400,000 for the purchase of a lot in Barangay Bantog in Asingan that Antonio was supposedly offering to a group of companies associated with the Gokongwei family.

"[Antonio] promised that our money will be returned after 30 days with a pledge of P1 million for every P100,000 investment," Barredo said in a sworn statement.

He said he later discovered that Antonio and Dioquino did not have any transaction with the Gokongwei group and Ayala Land. *Gabriel Cardinoza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

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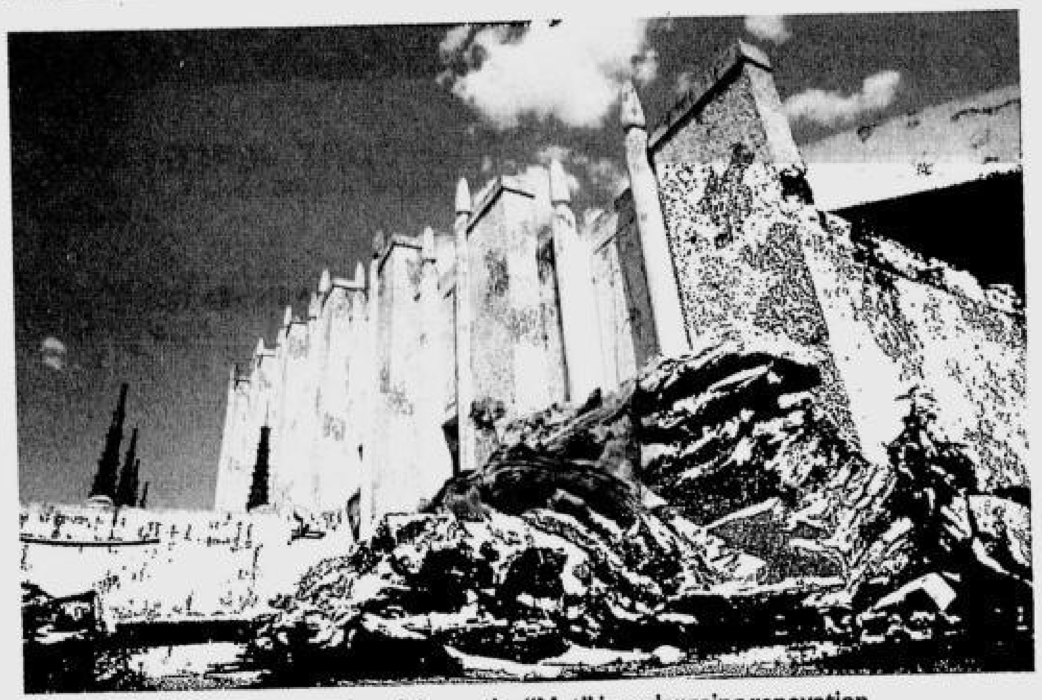


MORE than a decade after it closed down, the "Met" is undergoing renovation.

PHOTOS BY REM ZAMORA

'Grand Dame' of theater to reclaim lost glory

By Allison W. Lopez

THE CURTAIN WILL SOON RISE on the "new" Metropolitan Theater at the Liwasang Bonifacio in Manila.

Now undergoing a major "facelift," the "grand dame" of Manila's theaters is on its way to being restored to its former glory.

The Art Deco building constructed in 1931 by Juan Arellano was badly damaged during wartime, and rebuilt in 1978 by former First Lady Imelda Marcos.

But the "Met," as the "grand dame" of Manila's theaters is fondly referred to, fell into decay a decade ago and closed down in 1996 following a long-running dispute between the Government Service Insurance System and the City of Manila over its ownership and management.

In 2004, the GSIS and city government finally agreed to set aside their differences and, with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), signed a tripartite agreement on a work action plan for the Met's restoration.

The NCCA granted funding of P50 million for the project. Of the total, P6 million was earmarked for feasibility and engineering studies while P44 million went to City Hall, which is in charge of the actual restoration work.

Work delayed

The studies were completed by February last year, said Richard Tuason-Sanchez Bautista, NCCA architect in charge of the renovation. However, actual work began only last March.

Despite the delay, Bautista said that things were now moving faster. He added that the contractor hired by City Hall has just completed repairing the roof.

"We simulated how it looked like before, including galvanized iron sheets, but using 2007 methods," said Bautista. "It's really laying the foundation that took time. *Hindi pwedeng bakbak na lang nang bakbak* (You can't take it apart just like that)."

Renovation of the Met is now in its second phase. This involves fixing the theater's utility system, including electricity and plumbing.

After that, Bautista admitted, the city government would have to cough up more funds if the renovation is to be completed.

He added that it would take at least P210 million to completely restore the Met and this does not include the seats and curtains in the theater.

"After the P50 million grant, *bahala na ang* City of Manila (it's up to the City of Manila)," he said.

Bautista added that the NCCA was anxious to talk to incoming Mayor Alfredo Lim to get his support for the project.

According to him, renovating the Met will be a tough job, probably harder than raising funds for the project. Some parts of the ceiling have caved in, there are cracks in the floor, the stage is unsafe and the whole building needs a paint job. Some sculptures by Italian artist Francesco Monti, displayed all over the theater, are also in need of repair.

Even a stained-glass marquee, part of the theater's façade, was not spared by Typhoon "Milenyo" last year. Dilapidated sofas, broken records, files and old signs litter the rooms of what Bautista refers to as the "Imelda Marcos wing." Marcos, former governor of Metro Manila, had converted several rooms into a "lounge." The ballroom's chandeliers are still intact, as are the full length mirrors and tiles inside the powder rooms.

A major cleanup of the Met's 7,600-sq m area will reveal the astounding details incorporated by Arellano, its architect, into the structure, Bautista said.

Filipinized Art Deco

"It's Filipinized Art Deco," he stated as he pointed to fiberglass art work on the ceiling showing mangoes, bananas and bamboo. The original, he said, was probably made of wood but was replaced in the first restoration process.

Bautista could only guess, because even the 1931 blueprint for the theater was destroyed in the war. The plans and other files on the 1978 Met are also gone but he is hopeful that the engineering studies will help them in the renovation.

Several theater groups, he added, have already expressed interest in staging their plays once the Met is opened to the public. During its heyday, the theater could accommodate 1,670 people: 846 in the orchestra, 116 in the lodge and 708 in the balcony.

Famous names in the entertainment industry topbilled a lot of shows that were featured in the Met.

One of these was "Bodabil Atbp." in 1989 which boasted an all-star cast that included Robert Arevalo, Janet Basco, Metring David, Celeste Legaspi, Rene Requiestas, Nova Villa, Noel Trinidad, German Moreno, Cynthia Patag, Tetchie Agbayani and Melanie Marquez.

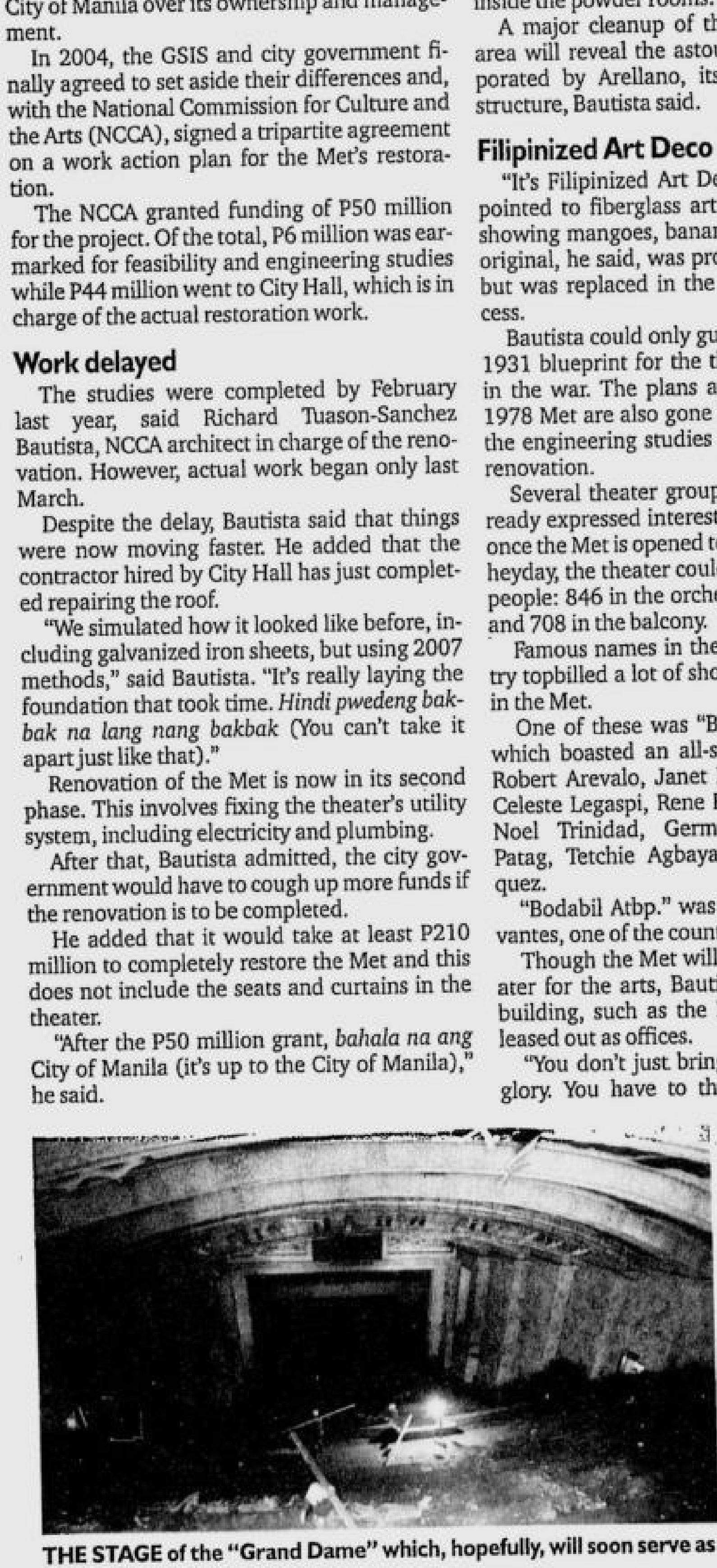
"Bodabil Atbp." was directed by Behn Cervantes, one of the country's top directors.

Though the Met will serve primarily as theater for the arts, Bautista said some parts of building, such as the Imelda wing, could be leased out as offices.

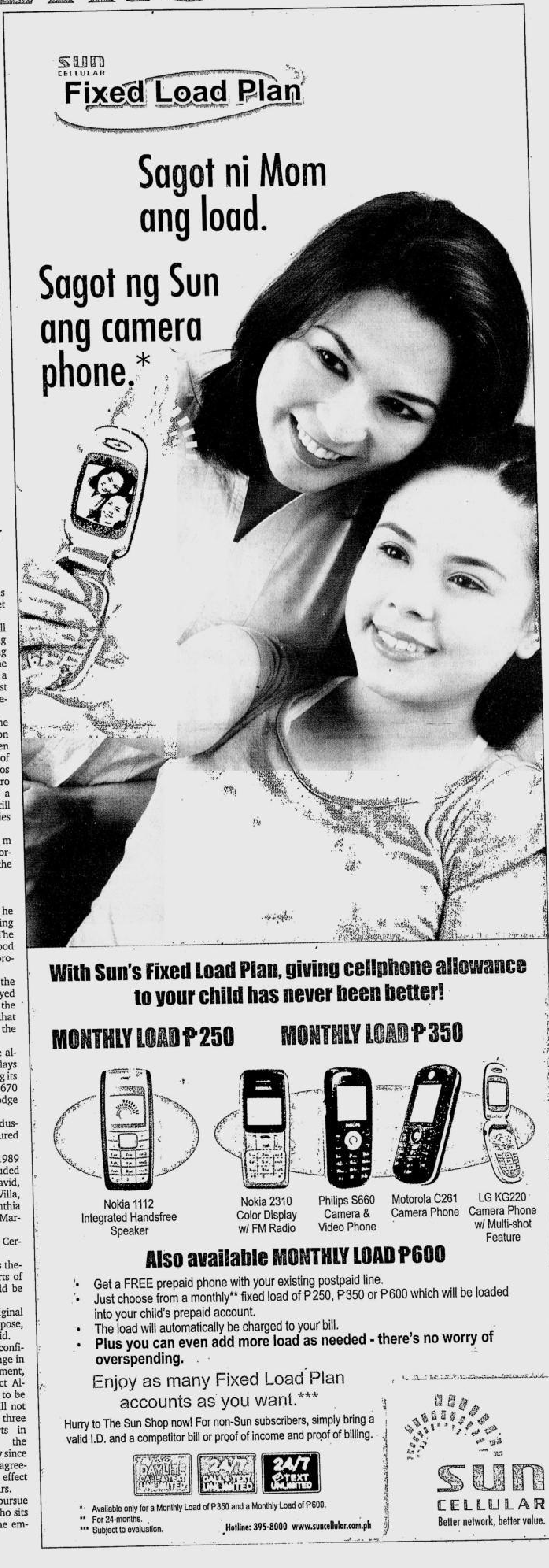
"You don't just bring it back to its original glory. You have to think about its purpose, too," Bautista said.

He remained confident that a change in the local government, with Mayor-elect Alfredo Lim soon to be at the helm, will not hamper the three agencies' efforts in restoring the Met—especially since the tripartite agreement will be in effect for 22 more years.

"They must pursue it, no matter who sits in City Hall," he emphasized.



THE STAGE of the "Grand Dame" which, hopefully, will soon serve as a venue for shows and plays.



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"Before, we just branded (the exodus of Filipino doctors to work as nurses) as a brain drain. But now I label it as a brain hemorrhage."

JAIME GALVEZ TAN, January 2007

GLOBAL Pinoy

Editor **Gerry Lirio**

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This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world, and wherever work can be contracted to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

Thinking out of the box led to balikbayan business

By Miko Morelos

WHEN HIS MOTHER TOLD HIM not to send gifts anymore because of the hassle she went through, Ramon "Monet" Ungco pondered how sending packages could be simplified. He thought outside the box, which resulted in the door-to-door *balikbayan* box.

Now that his business is in full swing, Ungco, 52, has returned home to start "taking it easy" and do volunteer work, a way of giving back for his success overseas.

Ungco takes pride in his endeavor, Port Jersey Shipping Inc., as being the pioneer in the door-to-door *balikbayan* box service business in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut, for over 20 years.

Expensive shipping firms

Port Jersey Shipping has been a household name for the Filipino community when it comes to door-to-door *balikbayan* box service.

Before he started his business in New York, Ungco worked as a shipping manager of a logging company in Indonesia right after finishing an Accounting degree from De La Salle University in 1976.

In the 1980s, items sent to the Philippines used to be very expensive as shipping companies charged at least $200 per box. Ungco sent his mother a washing machine as a gift months after he arrived in the US.

Sleepless on the job

"When I called her up to check if she received the washing machine, she told me not to send gifts anymore. "It took her almost a week to bring out my gift."

That's when he thought of providing a service that would bring a customer's package right at his doorstep, he says.

Ungco says his boxes are durable enough to put in at least 300 pounds of goods and its size just right for a person to carry it.

One by one, people called him up and asked him to get their packages. By October 1985, he had around 200 boxes locked up in the container he rented.

"I loaded the boxes into the container starting at about six in the morning and finishing 10 a.m. the following day," he says.

He compares the life of a typical New Yorker to a rat race, and life's pace was even much faster for immigrants like him because "all you think about is work."

He recalls how his sleeping hours were drastically cut to two hours a day because of the heavy workload, fending for himself, running his business and doing house chores.

After 9/11

"I'm half asleep most of the time because my sub-conscious thinks of the tasks I have to do," he says.

"Sometimes, I felt that time wasn't enough because I had a lot of things to do. It was getting stressful."

The lack of sleep wasn't a big deal for him during those days, pointing that he was as strong as a bull during his younger years.

Business was stable three years after it took off, in 1985, he says. Competition came but it wasn't enough to keep his business down. But he longed for home that's why when there was an opportunity, he jetted back here to check the business on the other side of the Pacific and to get a scent of home.

Fearing for his family's safety, Ungco decided to settle here permanently after the World Trade Center attack in September 2001.

"Before, most people considered [the US] as the land of opportunity. But now, I think it's the land of the 'pranings' (paranoids). They have become too security conscious ... too suspicious," he says.

"Before, when you exit the immigration (counter) and the airport, you'd feel, you'd smell, that you're really in America, the land of the free [where] you can do a lot of things. Today, when you exit the airport, a lot of people look at you."

Time to take it easy

Armed with the experience of living overseas, Ungco notes that life abroad can be taxing.

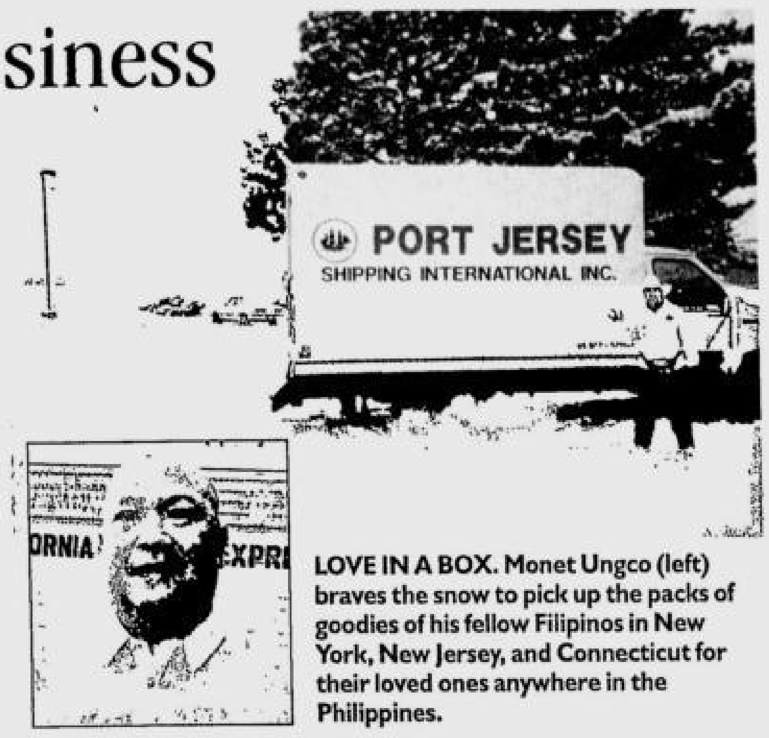
"Whatever you've started doing in the US will be the only thing you'll do for the rest of your life," he says. "Work will eat your time to the point that you wouldn't realize how time passed by. When you ask yourself what had happened [to your life], you'd realize that all you've done is work."

Aside from the security threat, Ungco says he returned to the country to "start taking it easy" now that he's older. Here in the Philippines, one could hire a maid to take care of the household chores and a driver to shuttle him wherever he pleased, among others, he adds.

Ungco is still active in the operation of Port Jersey Shipping making sure the business runs smoothly.

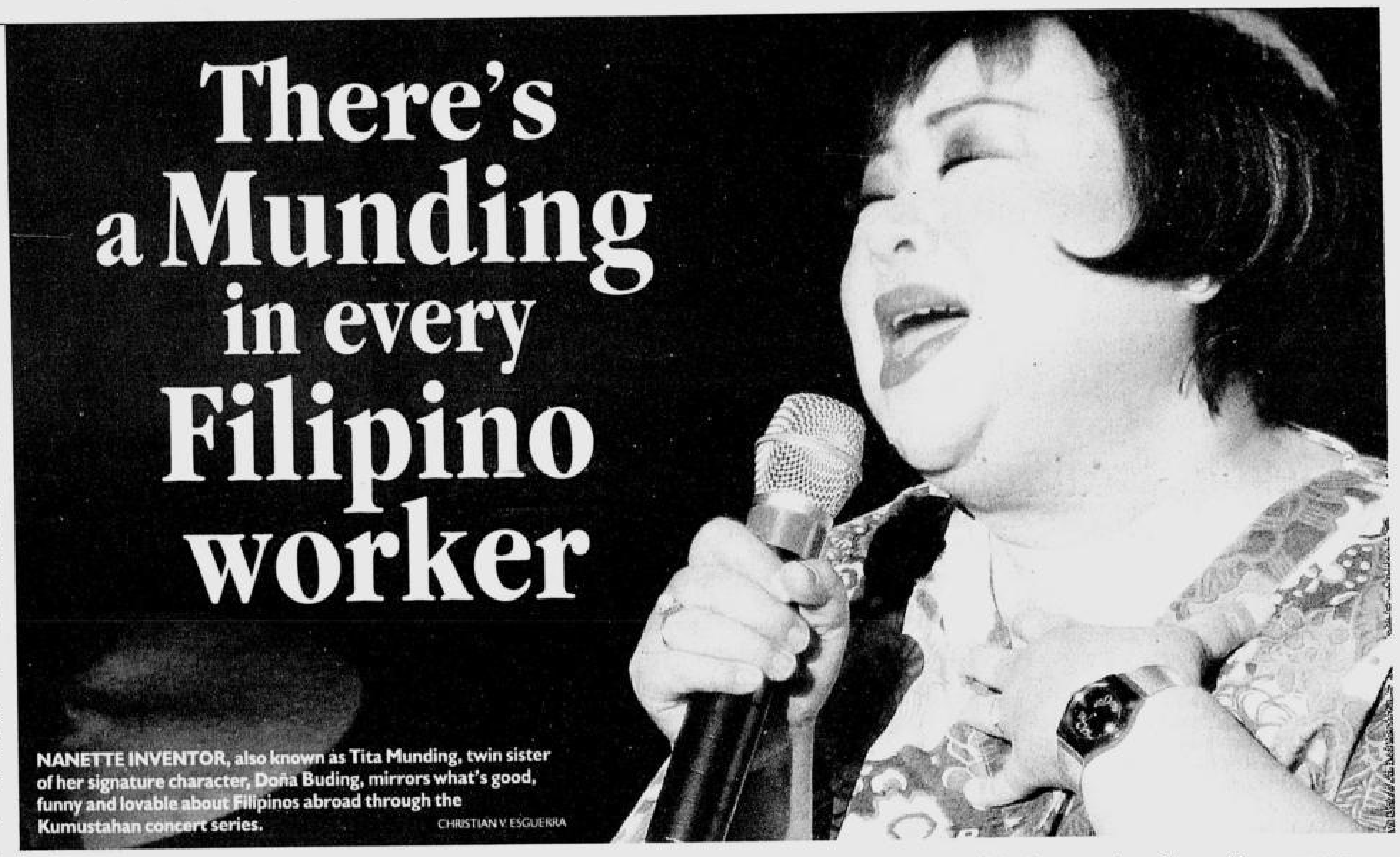
He doesn't regret coming back home in spite of the country's political and economic problems. There's no place like home, of course.

"Even though the problems we have here are more complicated than America's, we are Filipinos. We are going to get by somehow. We can tolerate the [problems]. We strive to make [life] better."



LOVE IN A BOX. Monet Ungco (left) braves the snow to pick up the packs of goodies of his fellow Filipinos in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut for their loved ones anywhere in the Philippines.

There's a Munding in every Filipino worker



NANETTE INVENTOR, also known as Tita Munding, twin sister of her signature character, Doña Buding, mirrors what's good, funny and lovable about Filipinos abroad through the Kumustahan concert series. CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

By Christian V. Esguerra

SAN FRANCISCO—THE sharp, salty smell wafting from the fat suitcase caught the attention of the customs officer at an airport in the United States. It's that smell again.

"What's that? 'Bagoong' (ba-gow-ong)?" he asked the tense owner of the luggage, a roly-poly woman from Pampanga.

"No (h)officer, it's 'tuyo' and 'daing,'" she replied. "They're gifts for my friends and relatives here in the US (yoo-hes)."

Routine inspection revealed more "pasalubong" intricately, impossibly arranged to fit inside the luggage.

The "first layer" had fish crackers, "polvoron," "sinigang" mix, and Boy Bawang. The second, a small statue of an Igorot man in a barrel, wall curtain of the Last Supper and a gigantic pair of wooden spoon and fork. And the third? Hand towel, perfume, and tissue paper—all souvenirs from the plane.

"Souvenirs from the plane," the grinning woman told the customs officer.

An inspection of the fourth layer of the suitcase would have revealed even more: the toilet seat cover from the plane, including the life jacket placed under the seat. More souvenirs, *heh-heh*.

Meet Tita Munding. Caregiver. Filipina.

Unknown to many compatriots back home, she is the latest product of singer-comedienne Nanette Inventor's fertile humor and imagination. As Tita Munding, Inventor has been going around places where Filipinos toil, entertaining them with Pinoy reality stand-up comedy.

Life in the land of milk and honey

In the process, the character of Tita Munding has become quietly popular among OFWs, from Hong Kong to Vienna, London to Australia. Her latest gig was a four-city tour of the United States last May as part of the Kumustahan Concert Series produced by businesswoman Maria Isabel Bautista.

Nanette, as Tita Munding, was a big hit in Atlantic City where she first performed along with the APO Hiking Society and Heart Evangelista. There was sustained laughing from start to finish.

What makes Tita Munding click?

"She mirrors what's good and funny about the Filipino abroad," Nanette tells the INQUIRER during a break at the Kumustahan tour. "Her antics are a reflection of the Filipino's foibles as well as good characteristics such as diligence and love for family."

Tita Munding is as real as each Filipino who showed up in each of the Kumustahan concerts in Atlantic City, Washington, San Francisco, and Los Angeles. You could tell by the reaction.

A group of Filipino women nearly jumped off their front-row seats when Nanette/Munding spoke about her "airport experience" at the New Jersey show. It was basically the same reaction across the Adrian Philips Ballroom that evening in May.

Munding on European tour

There was no mistaking that Filipinos who've worked and settled in the US have had their own "airport bloopers" as irreverently portrayed by Tita Munding.

Tita Munding made her debut in 2000 at a concert attended by some 5,000 Filipinos, mostly OFWs, at Hong Kong's Chatter Garden. She was such a big hit that Nanette got invitations to perform in the former British colony for two more years in a row.

Nanette envisioned Munding to adapt to the complexion and character of Filipinos where she performs. In Vienna and Amsterdam, she was an "oper" (au pair) (governess), in Rome and London, a cook and housekeeper. In Australia, she's a caregiver—of kangaroos.

Consider the "origin" of Tita Munding, a hilarious anecdote usually opening her spiel.

It all began one stormy eve at Hacienda Evaporada somewhere in Pampanga. The family matriarch, assisted by Raymunda the midwife, gave birth to a huge baby girl who would take the name Buding (aka Doña Leonila Evaporada viuda de Ford, the TV character Nanette has been known for since the 1980s).

Unknown to the mother, there was a second baby, a twin sister of Buding. The mother dying shortly after the second delivery, Raymunda, a spinster, took the younger baby and named her "Raymunda Jr." or "Munding." The elder went to her clan and grew up rich and snooty.

What followed in the life of Munding, told in rich detail and pedestrian humor, is the stuff, which, any honest Filipino in the US knows, is perpetually fixed in his or her consciousness.

There's a Munding in every Filipino. She is the Filipino working in a nursing home in Sydney, the domestic helper in Hong Kong, the entertainer in Japan, or the white-collar employee in upscale New York. Munding, too, is the Pinoy in America transfixed on "telenovelas" broadcast from home.

Like their funny impersonation in Munding, Filipinos all have colorful stories to tell about life in the land of milk and honey.

Daily rush

Darlou Villanueva, 46, is a cook at Phil-Am in Colonia, one of the more popular Filipino restaurants in New Jersey. It's a job quite unfamiliar to him, considering that back home, he had never done anything much cooking beyond family gatherings.

But his recipe of "pakbet, caldereta, binagoongan, and papaitan" has been a consistent bestseller even among Americans in the area since he started working in the restaurant 13 years ago.

In the West Coast, 30-year-old Cid Vicente is working on his own success.

He's employed at the accounting department of a top hotel in LA, his second job besides his work as a freelance graphics designer.

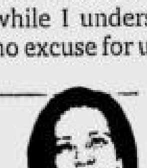
Filipinos the INQUIRER came across with during the Kumustahan tour were bound by a singular impression about American life. "Here, the poor get to eat what the rich do, go to places where they usually go," says Cid.

But all of them agree that in the US—be it New York, LA, or San Francisco—one is always caught in the daily rush or work, work, and more work. "You have the feeling that you'll be caught in a stampede once you stop," another Filipino explains. "You think you're in control of you're life, but you're not."

Nanette and her character Tita Munding are well aware of these sentiments. This is why each show packs a wallop of good humor and great singing. To make her audience forget about the tough American life—even for a two-hour concert—is her small tribute to the so-called heroes of the modern day.

Culture of pride not fraud

IMFO



Lourdes Santos Tancinco

"FILIPINOS HAVE VERY COMplex problems and I have yet to see a case where there is no fraud involved in their immigration applications" uttered one Caucasian United States immigration lawyer attending an immigration law conference.

This is the comment that I heard more than once from among my colleagues during my four-day conference in Orlando, Florida. The question that they asked me is whether or not it is Filipino culture to engage in fraud. This came obviously as an insult to me and, this happened not just once but a lot of times because Filipinos are often erroneously typecast.

Having been in US immigration practice for the last 15 years, I am no longer surprised by comments stereotyping our community. There are views from US immigration practitioners that Filipinos engage in fraudulent schemes and impute it as part of our culture. My response was that the Filipinos are an honest, God-fearing people with a sense of pride in their rich culture. I stated in my own way how Filipinos can easily be misled because we are a trusting people looking up to people in apparent authority.

Then why then are there fraudulent documents and information in applications for immigrant visas?

Most of the Filipino clients I have seen are educated and know what they want. They are fearful of violating laws and of enforcement officers in uniforms. However, I would admit that a majority of the Filipinos are misinformed of the actual consequences of using false statements or information to support their applications. Their subjective intent is not even close to criminal. For many of them, their only wish is to be reunified with other family members who are already there.

For others, the objective is merely to get a visa to enter the US and seek employment to provide economic advantages for themselves and their family. But while I understand that there is no excuse for using falsity to justify entry in a foreign country, a lot of times, people who use fraudulent documents are misinformed and are given false hopes by unscrupulous individuals doing consultant jobs for visa applicants.

US Immigration applicants can be classified into the different categories consisting of: Professionals, business persons or family reunification applicants.

For beneficiaries of family petitions, many have also worked their way up their careers and hold rewarding jobs. There is no limit to where a legal resident Filipino can advance in the US Society. It is therefore important that the first step in entering the US immigration system be done in the legal way. A Filipino who helps himself advance economically in the US Society will also be an economic force in Philippine society as oftentimes the fruits of a Filipino's labor abroad is sent back home to family and relatives here.

It is my intention to give the mainstream US community a different perspective of Filipino immigrants by highlighting accomplishments of prominent immigrants in their respective fields. For those wanting to have a fresh start in migrating to the US, through this column, I intend to provide accurate information to pave the way for a successful start for the prospective immigrant emphasizing tools, skills and the culture of pride that is embedded in us as Filipinos.

Tancinco is a partner at the Tancinco Law Offices, a San Francisco-based law firm with offices in Makati, Philippines. She may be reached through email at law@tancinco.com. IMFO stands for Immigration Information.

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Nato air strike kills 25 Afghan civilians

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN—AT LEAST 25 CIVILIANS, including nine women, three babies and an elderly village mullah, were killed in an air strike early on Friday morning when they were caught in a battle between Taliban and Nato forces in southern Afghanistan, said the police chief of Helmand province.

The scenario is a grimly familiar one: The Taliban launched an attack under the cover of darkness and then retreated into the village of Kunjakak in the Grishk district of Helmand. Nato commanders ordered air support. The result was devastating.

Nato spokesperson Lt. Col. Mike Smith reported in a written statement that perhaps 30 Taliban insurgents were killed in the air strike, adding that while an unknown number of innocents may have lost their lives, the fault for that was entirely the enemy's: "In choosing to conduct such attacks in this location at this time, the risk to civilians was probably deliberate. It is this irresponsible action that may have led to casualties."

Afghans are not only angry with the Taliban, whose terrorizing tactics include suicide attacks and concealed roadside bombs. They are upset by what they see as the sometimes-indiscriminate death toll of allied bombs and rockets.

That concern has been echoed by foreign charities working in the country. Earlier this week, Acbar—a coalition of Afghan and international relief agencies like CARE, Save the Children, and Mercy Corps—criticized the United States and its allies, saying that hasty military action has led to a minimum of 230 civilian deaths in 2007.

"This past week has been very tough," said Christopher Alexander, deputy special representative in Afghanistan of the UN secretary general. "I've seen the reports. In the Chora incident, the Taliban literally slit the throats of men, women and children and burned the bodies. But there was also close air support (by Nato) that killed civilians."

Various groups here in Kabul keep a running tally of casualties; there is wide variation in numbers. According to Alexander, during the past two years the number of war-time dead has risen fourfold. So far this year, the United Nations has counted about 2,800 casualties, which is 20 to 30 percent above the pace of 2006. Roughly one quarter of the deaths are civilians, with the vast majority killed by the Taliban, he said. *NYT*

FAMILY TIES A one-month-old female Golden Snub-nosed monkey is held in the arms of her mother at the Yokohama zoological gardens Zoorasia, south of Tokyo, on June 23. AP

Bush promises to permanently bar future illegal immigrants from US

WASHINGTON—PRESIDENT GEORGE W. Bush promised Saturday to permanently bar future illegal immigrants from the United States as he renewed his push for immigration reform, a centerpiece of his domestic agenda.

A revised reform package was reintroduced in the Senate this past week after its predecessor failed on June 7 to garner enough votes to cut off debate and move for final passage.

The collapse of the first proposal has prompted a personal intervention by the president, who went to Capitol Hill to plead for giving the bill a second chance.

But while he has succeeded in putting the proposal back on the Senate agenda, the legislation is facing strong opposition from both Republicans and Democrats, who argue that granting legal status to an estimated 12 million illegal immigrants will only encourage more people to sneak across the poorly guarded border.

In his weekly radio address, Bush sought to address these concerns, revealing for the first time that under the revised proposal, people crossing a US border illegally will not only be deported, but never allowed to enter the United States again.

"Under this bill, those caught crossing illegally will be permanently barred from returning to the United States on a work or tourist visa," the president stated.

He went on to assure Americans the new bill puts border enforcement first.

The measure contains $4.4 billion to help the US Border Patrol hire more agents, build additional fencing, purchase infrared cameras and other technologies that help intercept illegal aliens.

"Only after these enforcement tools are in place will certain other parts of the bill go into effect," Bush said.

These "other parts" include a guest worker program that illegal immigrants currently in the United States would be able to join by applying for a renewable "Z" visa and paying fines.

Program participants will be allowed to eventually seek permanent residency and citizenship, although only after returning to their countries of origin.

Bush said that only those passing a background check, holding jobs, maintaining a clean criminal record and capable of mastering English will qualify for a "Z" visa. But he insisted that lawmakers must take action now, before the situation at the southern border gets out of control. *AFP*

EU leaders seal reform treaty deal

BRUSSELS—EUROPEAN UNION LEADERS on Saturday reached a hard-fought deal on the outline of a new reform treaty to streamline the expanded bloc's operations, after striking a compromise with Poland in all-night talks.

At a predawn press conference, German Chancellor Angela Merkel hailed a "good compromise" over the voting system in the proposed treaty, the issue which had prompted Poland to threaten to block a deal at the EU summit which began Thursday.

Unsurprisingly, she looked a little tired after almost 24 hours straight of diplomatic cajoling, hectoring and impasse.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair also left his final EU summit having secured valuable concessions on the treaty that he hopes will get it accepted by British lawmakers, without the need for an unpredictable plebiscite.

Merkel said the agreement would give a bloc, which has enlarged from 15 member states to 27 since 2004, the ability to act effectively.

"We have a detailed and clear mandate for an intergovernmental conference" which will draft the full treaty, she said.

The conference will thrash out the full reforms which Merkel hopes will be tied up by the end of the year. The aim is to have the treaty ratified by all states ahead of the next European parliamentary elections in 2009.

The new treaty will replace the Union's failed constitution, which was torpedoed by voters in France and the Netherlands in 2005.

"I was sure that if we had not achieved this today we would have ended up in a rather disastrous situation as many would have thought they had been pushed too far," said Merkel, whose country holds the EU's rotating presidency till the end of the month.

"We have managed to organize things so that no one can go home and feel they have been put in the corner," she said.

Polish President Lech Kaczynski thanked France and Britain for their "solidarity" in helping to broker a deal.

Blair, who leaves office next week, and newly elected French President Nicolas Sarkozy both sought to persuade the Polish president and his twin brother, Prime Minister Jaroslaw Kaczynski, to drop their opposition.

The Kaczynskis had shocked European diplomats ahead of the summit by evoking their country's mass destruction at the hands of the Nazis in World War II as an argument for it to get its way on the voting issue.

Spelling out the compromise, Merkel said the double majority voting system—which Poland strongly opposed because it fears it will give big countries too much decision-making power—would not be introduced until 2014 and would then be phased in over the next three years.

EU Commission chief Jose Manuel Barroso said the deal was vital. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Space shuttle ends mission with California landing

EDWARDS Air Force Base, California—US space shuttle Atlantis landed at Edwards Air Force Base in California on Friday after a fiery descent through the Earth's atmosphere that capped a two-week mission to the International Space Station. The shuttle with seven astronauts on board touched down at Edwards at 3:49 p.m., shimmering in the heat and sending up a plume of brownish-gray dust as its rear wheels hit the 4,570-meter runway. The shuttle had been on a two-week construction mission to the International Space Station, a $100-billion project of 16 nations that is a little more than half finished. The shuttle carted a third pair of power-producing solar wing panels to the station and its crew conducted four spacewalks to install them, fold up another older wing that will be moved to a new location and install equipment needed to prepare for the arrival of additional research laboratories. *Reuters*

British girl, aged two, joins high IQ club

LONDON—A 2-year-old girl with an intelligence quotient of 152 has become the youngest current member of British Mensa, the international society for highly-intelligent people, it said Friday. Georgia Brown, aged 2 years and 10 months, was welcomed into the exclusive club after an assessment by a child psychologist, who was said to be "elated" as the findings were what would be expected for a 5- or 6-year-old. But the little girl, from Aldershot, in southern England, is still not the youngest member ever to join British Mensa. She missed out by six days to Ben Woods, who joined in the 1990s. The previous youngest current member was a 3-year-old boy with an IQ of 137, who joined in 2005. Mensa, which is Latin for table, seeks to identify and foster human intelligence for the benefit of humanity, according to its website. *AFP*

Chirac refuses to testify over dirty tricks scandal

PARIS—Former French president Jacques Chirac has refused to testify over a political dirty tricks scandal, but could face questioning over a party financing affair before he took office. Chirac announced late Friday that he would not answer questions from investigators looking into an alleged plot, known as the Clearstream Scandal, to discredit Nicolas Sarkozy before Sarkozy took over as president. Under the constitution "the president of the republic is not responsible for acts committed in this capacity" and a former head of state could not be made to testify on things that were "done or known during his mandate and in carrying out his functions," his office said in a statement. Chirac was replaced by Sarkozy on May 16. Chirac was believed to have favored a rival candidate, former prime minister Dominique de Villepin, to become the ruling party's candidate for the presidency. *AFP*

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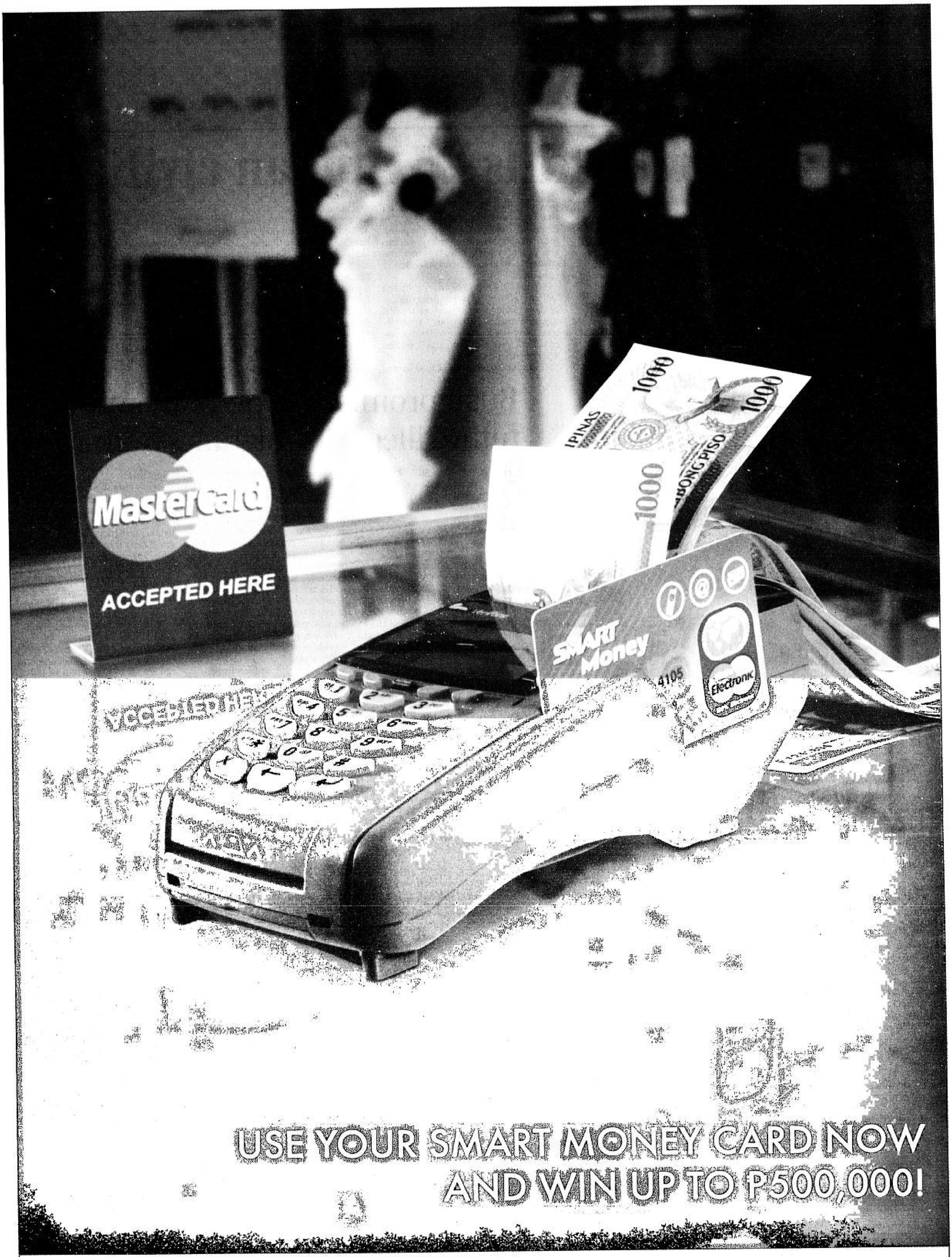
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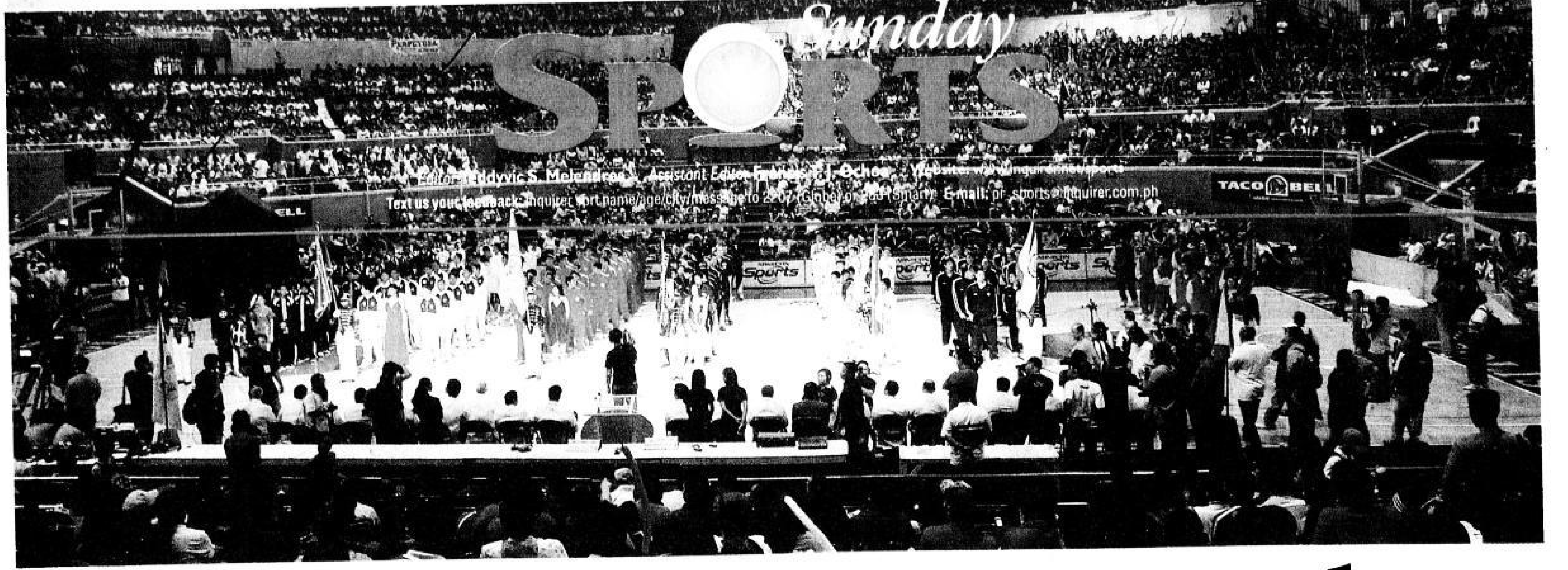
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SPORTS

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Lions feast on Bombers

GAMES TOMORROW (*The Arena*)
12 nn—Letran vs St. Benilde (jrs)
1:30 p.m.—San Sebastian vs Perpetual (jrs)
3 p.m.—Jose Rizal vs San Beda (jrs)

By Marc Anthony Reyes

SAN BEDA PLAYED TRUE TO hype, unleashing its full might in a 91-69 rout of host Jose Rizal yesterday at the start of the NCAA men's basketball tournament at the Araneta Coliseum.

Pong Escobal and Nigerian Sam Ekwe typified the Red Lions' ferocity on both ends of the court as the defending champions tore the game apart as early as the first half.

"If this is a statement then let it be our statement," said Frankie Lim, who took the helm from last year's champion mentor Koy Banal. "They saw what we are made of and they saw what we are capable of doing."

With a slew of rookies in its fold, Letran defeated Mapua, 84-80, in the second game.

The Knights, who are trying to make an impression this season despite losing three of their stars to the pro league, pulled way to double digit leads most of the game but had to control the Cardinals' late charge to preserve the win.

San Beda, on the other hand, led by 20 points after three quarters, 64-44, and Ogie Menor hit a three-pointer to give the Red Lions their biggest lead, 74-48, over a team which last tasted the championship 35 years ago.

"JRU is a strong team, it's a contender," said Lim.

Six-foot-five Bomber James Sena proved ineffective against the 6-8 Nigerian Ekwe and so was his reliever, 6-5 rookie Dave Marcelo.

Ekwe, the Rookie-MVP awardee last year, finished with 14 points and 18 rebounds.

The game suffered several delays in the first half due to a malfunctioning scoreboard.

Meanwhile, Perpetual coach Bai Cristobal said he won't use his 6-foot-9 Indonesian import Thoyib Isman, whose eligibility was questioned following reports that the Indon had stints with a commercial league back home.

The scores:

First Game

SAN BEDA 91—Escobal 17, Aljamal 17, Menor 15, Hermida 14, Ekwe 14, Maggay 4, Marcelo 3, Lanete 3, Taganas 2, Gamalinda 2, Tecson 0.

JRU 69—Nocom 21, Wilson 12, Pradas 8, Cagoco 7, Sena 6, Hayes 6, Se 4, Agas 2, Lituania 2, Cunanan 0, Kabigting 0, Bulangis 0.

Quarters: 21-15, 41-26, 64-44, 91-69.

Second Game

LETRAN 84—Jazul 23, Daa 15, Gutilban 10, Quinday 7, Cabonse 6, Dangcal 5, Faundo 4, Guevarra 3, Ranises 3, Del Rosario 3, Melegrito 3, Reposar 2.

MAPUA 80—Pascual 15, Dela pena 13, Acosta 13, Del Rosario 12, Co 11, Banal 10, Guillermo 6, Palomique 0, Mazo 0.

Quarters: 22-14, 34-33, 64-59, 84-80

AFTER colorful opening ceremonies (top photo), action heated up on the court as Letran and Mapua locked horns. The Knights won. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

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Ex-US NCAA star Norwood hits town looking for relatives

By Musong R. Castillo

GABE NORWOOD PLANED IN TOGETHER with the rest of the Philippine team a couple of days back, and unlike many Fil-American players who came to trace their roots here, he hasn't seen a relative just yet.

"No, I don't know anyone here," Norwood, a 22-year-old former star of George Mason University in the US NCAA, told scribes Friday night at the Araneta Coliseum. "No one has actually come to me and told me that he's my relative."

Norwood is being eyed by coach Chot Reyes for the RP team, which will campaign in the Fiba Asia in Japan next month for a slot in next year's Beijing Olympics.

Only one critical piece of paper is missing in Norwood's claim to Filipino lineage, the birth certificate of his grandmother.

Though Norwood does not even know the name of his grandmother, her birth certificate, if it can be determined that she was still a Filipino at the time of Norwood's mother's birth, he can get a Philippine passport.

"All I know is that my great grandpa is from Pangasinan," Norwood, a reedy, 6-5 point guard, whose father Brian was a quarterback for the University of Hawaii, said.

A lawyer whom the INQUIRER consulted yesterday said that it is possible for Norwood to secure a Philippine passport "if that piece of paper is found and proven to be authentic.

"But it would be a case of forcing through, most especially since the Fiba Asia is just more than a month away."

The lawyer, who did not want to be identified, said that if the father or mother of Norwood's mother happens to be Filipinos at the time of the cager's mother's birth, "then he can pass as a Filipino."

An article posted in March 2006 on the starbulletin.com website said that the family of Norwood's mother Tiffiney, migrated to Maui from the Philippines.

"They have lived in Maui for five generations, her (Tiffiney's) great grandmother migrating to Maui from the Philippines," the article said.

Aces go for 3-0; Bulls, Pals break tie

IT'S GOING to be a long chase for Willy Wilson (back) and the San Miguel Beermen, who lag behind Mike Cortez and the Alaska Aces by two games in their semifinal battle. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

GAMES TODAY (*Araneta Coliseum*)
4:05 p.m.—Red Bull vs. Talk 'N Text
6:35 p.m.—San Miguel Beer vs. Alaska

TIM CONE HAS RAISED HIS guard for the remainder of his Alaska Aces' semifinal series with San Miguel Beer in the Talk 'N Test-PBA Fiesta Cup.

"Our concern is the next one," Cone said Friday night moments after running the Beermen to the ground in a 98-63 win that gave the Aces a commanding 2-0 lead in their best-of-seven duel.

"We need to come out aggressively. We can't afford to have a ping-pong [of games won] because that's how you win a series.

"It was one of those nights and fortunately for us, we were on top on this given night," Cone added. "But they (Beermen) turn things around so quickly that they come from a bad streak and win six or seven straight."

No smelling

The Aces take the Araneta Coliseum floor with the Beermen again at 6:35 tonight, just after defending champion Red Bull and Talk 'N Text break their 1-1 tie in the 4:05 p.m. contest.

Alaska, the dynasty of the 1990s, has never made a championship playoff since the 2002 Governors Cup. And Cone was the last man to blow a 3-1 lead in a similar series, losing to Purefoods in the Philippine Cup semis last year.

"That's why I refuse to smell it. There will be no smelling from now on," he said. "I'll just eat it if it's on the table already. Otherwise, we will continue working."

The 25-point blowout was the worst San Miguel loss in more than two years. The Beermen were held to just eight points in the first period, 25 at the half and 38 after three quarters.

No excuses

"I have no excuses," losing coach Siot Tanquingcen said. "We need to come out (for Game 3) and refocus on the things that got us here. We didn't play as a team on both ends tonight and that told on us."

But history does not speak kindly of teams that have gone 0-2 down, with only five of the 28 that fell in such a hole able to rally to win the series.

And of all the teams that blew that kind of an edge, two of them were Alaska squads under Cone.

Rosell Ellis has been the key for the Aces thus far. He has been able to prevent Galen Young from taking over, the way the former CBA All-Star MVP did in the Beermen's miraculous quarterfinal conquest of sister team Barangay Ginebra.

And Ellis will come into tonight's game relatively fresh, having played just 32 minutes Friday night as Cone had the luxury of recalling his entire starting unit after three quarters because of a 32-point lead.

San Miguel's locals weren't able to step up the way they are capable of, with only Enrico Villanueva finishing in double figures with 16, 10 of them coming in the fourth when the outcome was already beyond doubt. *Musong R. Castillo*

Mendoza favored to keep duathlon title

CLARK—THERE MAY BE LESS worries, but a lot of hard work remains in store for elite duathlon racer Ryan Mendoza.

Assured of a slot in the Southeast Asian Games, Mendoza hopes to extend his reign in the 2007 National Duathlon Championship.

The former pro cyclist, who found more success in the 10K run-40K bike-5K run event, tries to set a record sixth straight victory in as many tries in today's race inside the Clark Special Economic Zone here in Pampanga.

Twenty-two-year-old Augusto Benedicto and Joseph Millanes are expected to challenge Mendoza to boost their SEA Games bid.

The national competition is the final qualifier for the Philippine duathlon team that will compete in the SEA Games in Thailand this December.

In the women's division, the fight remains tight among seasoned racers Popo Nagtalon and Kaye Lopez, newcomer Monica Torres and Analiza Dysangco, a prized find from Angeles City.

"After the race, we will make the final decision on the team and start a rigorous training program for them," said Triathlon Association of the Philippines president Tom Carrasco Jr. "We expect podium finishes in both divisions (male and female) in the SEA Games."

Mendoza, the 2006 Asian Duathlon champion, remains among the region's best after finishing second in the Asian male elite and fourth in the international male elite categories of the 2007 Mekong River Duathlon Asian Championships in Thailand last March.

Benedicto and Torres ruled the Under-23 division of the same tournament.

Today's standard distance race will also feature age-group competitions, a 5K run-20K bike-2.5K run sprint for juniors and executives and a Superkids' duathlon.

"Aside from the member of the national training team and other elite duathletes, we expect a lot of weekend and recreational athletes to join," said Carrasco. *Jasmine W. Payo*

Forest Hills, Alabang lead FedLeague golf

Standings (Win-Loss-Draw)
Group I: Alabang 3-0-0, Highlands 2-1-0 , Malarayat 1-2-0 , Valley 0-1-0, Southwoods 0-2-0
Group II: Sherwood Hills 3-1-0, Northwoods 2-1-1, Wack Wack 2-1-1, Canlubang 1-2-0, John Hay 1-2-0, Orchard 0-4-0
Group III: Forest Hills 4-0-0, Riviera 3-1-0 . Eastridge 1-1-1, Mimosa 0-2-1, Sta. Elena 0-3-0

FORMER CHAMPIONS FOREST Hills and Alabang remained the only unbeaten teams in the field after hacking out contrasting victories in the Federation Golf League matches played in various venues recently.

After taking a much-needed rest last weekend, Forest Hills, which is bidding to become the first team to win three titles in the league, survived the challenge of Eastridge, 3.5-1.5, to complete a four-game sweep of its first round eliminations assignment in Group III.

Alabang, champions in 2003, picked up win No. 3 in Group I at the expense of a skidding defending champion Manila Southwoods, 3-2. Southwoods, struggling due to the transfer of several key players to Tagaytay, had lost its first two outings.

Sherwood rode the momentum of its big upset win over Northwoods last week to demolish a hapless Orchard squad, 4-1, and seize the upperhand in Group II.

Riviera's 5-0 thumping of Mimosa meant an extra point and allowed it to stay within sight of Forest Hills.

Forest has eight points while Riviera is a point behind with seven.

It was only the third shutout victory this season after Forest swept Mimosa in Round 1 and Northwoods blanked John Hay in Round 2.

CELEBRATION

Members of Team Lipa, headed by skipper Manny Mendoza, whoop it up after topping the team competition of the Partners Cup Invitational badminton tournament held at the Yonex Badminton Center recently. The other team members are Alex Ang, Albert Acuna, Michael Coscolluela, Lawrence Lor, Renato Villanueva, Kristina Maligat, Jacklyn Gamboa, Vina Millado, Francis Rubio. Event organizer Christina Cobankiat (left) joined in the celebration.

'Road king' runners list gets bigger

REGISTRATION FOR THE METRO MANILA adidas King of the Road Race has already surpassed the 2,500 mark with still three days to go before listing closes on June 27.

The July 1 race will start and end at the Quirino Grandstand at the Rizal Park.

The race will also be simultaneously held on July 22 in the Visayas in the cities of Cebu, Iloilo and Tacloban; in Mindanao in Cagayan de Oro and Davao; and in Luzon in Tarlac, San Fernando, La Union, and Puerto Princesa.

Over 1,000 entries have registered in almost all the provincial venues, with Tarlac City expected to post the biggest number of entries as it requested for additional 1,000 singlets to be made available to schools confirming their participation.

Registration fee in Metro Manila is P250 while entry fee in the provinces is P150.

A total of P706,000 in adidas gift certificates and P20,000 cash awaits top finishers and lucky raffle winners.

Adidas sports marketing manager Goody Custodio likewise announced that all participants in next Sunday's KOTR are entitled to a 20% discount at adidas outlets at SM Megamall and Trinoma Mall on North Edsa.

The top male and female finishers in the 21K centerpiece event of the three-event competition in the Metro Manila adidas KOTR will receive P10,000 cash and P10,000 worth of adidas gift certificates and a trophy.

The top finishers of the five age group competitions in the 21K and 10K run will receive P3,000 worth of adidas gift certificates and a medal while the top finishers of the age group competition in the 5K run will take home P1,500 worth of adidas gift certificates and a medal. There are no overall awards for the 10K and 5K run.

Three teams battle for last two BP semis slots

THREE TEAMS FIGHT IT OUT TOday for the two remaining semifinal berths of Baseball Philippines' pilot series on the last playdate of the eliminations at the Rizal Memorial Baseball Stadium.

Manila, tied with Makati for third with 1-2 cards, goes up against semifinalist Negros in the 9 a.m. opener, looking for a win and a slot in the next round of this event presented by Purefoods TJ Hotdogs.

But focus will be on the 1 p.m. encounter between Makati and Laguna, with the latter needing a victory to force a tie for the fourth and last semis berth.

A three-way tie for third ensues if Manila drops its game to Negros and Laguna prevails.

The Cebu Dolphins cruised to the Final Four and took the No. 1 seeding via a four-game sweep of the elimination round capped by a 12-6 rout of the Manila Sharks last week.

The Negros Roosters joined the Dolphins in the semis after they notched a second straight victory in three games by edging the Laguna Tigers, 7-6.

Ernesto Binarao, currently the country's best pitcher, is expected to deliver the goods for the Roosters, who are out to nail the No. 2 seeding and avoid an early confrontation with the powerhouse Dolphins.

Makati, for its part, will be pinning its hopes on the youthful Jojo Robles, a University of Santo Tomas standout and former UAAP MVP, at the mound.

Robles fanned out six batters in a three-inning relief effort that powered the Mariners to their first win, a 7-4 decision over the Sharks three weeks ago.

The knockout format semifinals is scheduled next week with the championship game slated on July 1.

STANDINGS	W	L
Cebu	4	0
Negros	2	1
Manila	1	2
Makati	1	2
Laguna	0	3

GAMES TODAY
(*Rizal Stadium*)
9 a.m.—Manila vs Negros
1 p.m.—Laguna vs Makati

Gymnast Ramirez targets Olympics

By Dennis U. Eroa
Inquirer Libre Sports Editor

ROEL RAMIREZ, THE COUNTRY'S TOP male gymnast, is on a mission.

A double-gold medalist in the 2005 Manila Southeast Asian Games, the 24-year-old Ramirez is aiming for a prestigious slot in the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Norman Henson was the last RP gymnast to compete in the quadrennial Games during the 1968 Mexico Olympics.

Since then, no Filipino has made it to the Olympics due to a variety of reasons, including lack of funds and exposure.

To qualify, Ramirez must hurdle the tough 40th Artistic World Gymnastics Championships set Sept. 1-9 at Stuttgart, Germany.

"It's going to be hard, but I'm 100 percent determined to make it," said Ramirez, physical education major at the University of the East.

In an exclusive interview, national coach Sonny Ty said Ramirez has the tools to gain a slot in Beijing.

"I feel that Roel is ripe for the Olympics because he has the experience and skills to make it," said Ty, who will accompany Ramirez in Stuttgart.

Ty said Henson made it to the Olympics without going through qualifying.

"From the 1972 Olympics to the present, the international federation decided that competing gymnasts in the Olympics must undergo qualifying due to the uncontrolled number of participants," Ty explained. "Before, anybody with the skills and money can compete."

Ty said Ramirez is gunning for a spot in the all-around individual event.

Four-team scramble for V-L title slots

IT IS A WIDE-OPEN RACE FOR the two championship slots with only two playing days left in the semifinals of the Shakey's V-League women's volleyball tournament at The Arena in San Juan City.

Leader Lyceum plays University of Santo Tomas today at 2 p.m., the first of the Lady Pirates' last two games which they must win to secure the first championship slot with a 9-2 card.

UST, the league's inaugural champion in 2004, also has two chances to at least qualify for the 3-of-4 scheme being used by the league.

If they lose today, the Tigresses must beat the defending champion La Salle Lady Archers on Tuesday to have a shot at a second crown.

Under tournament rules, a team that wins three out of its four semis assignments is assured of a playoff for the second finals berth.

La Salle, also just one game away from the semis incentive, meets arch rival Ateneo de Manila in the other game at 4 p.m.

Ateneo is out of the running after dropping all its three previous semis matches.

A tie at 8-3 may ensue between Lyceum and idle San Sebastian College (7-3) if the Lady Pirates win today and the Lady Stags beat them on Tuesday.

Likewise, UST (6-3) and SSC may tie at 8-3 if the Tigresses sweep their last two matches and the Lady Stags beat the Lady Pirates on Tuesday.

To break a tie, the new international volleyball federation (FIVB) rule will be employed.

That is, the quotient of the total scores won over total scores lost.

The other finals slot will be disputed by either the No. 2 and No. 3 squads or by the No. 2 team and the winner of the other playoff, which may pit the Lady Archers and the Tigresses in case they meet the 3-of-4 scheme.

The finals will be a best-of-three affair which will start July 1.

Romina S. Austria

STANDINGS	W	L
Lyceum	7	2
SSC	7	3
UST	6	3
DLSU	5	4
Ateneo	3	7

GAMES TODAY
(*The Arena*)
2 p.m.—UST vs Lyceum
4 p.m.—Ateneo vs La Salle

KANCHANA Jindaraat will lead the La Salle charge anew.

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

GVL: Prenza High puts St. Joseph bid in peril

PRENZA HIGH SCHOOL DRUBBED St. Joseph's College Quezon City, 23-25, 25-18, 26-24, to sweep all its six Bracket B matches and snare a quarterfinal berth in the 3rd season Shakey's Girls Volleyball League yesterday at the Ateneo Blue Eagle Gym.

Jennylyn Reyes, Lorena Simon, Michell Bautista and Megami Bendijo combined for 63 points, including 21 kills, to lift the Marilao-based school.

St. Joseph's and Greenhills Spikers dispute the other quarterfinal slot today.

Prenza coach Al Carpio was elated with his team's performance despite dropping the opening set.

"*Nang natalo kami sa* (When we lost the) first set, *sabi ko sa mga bata* (I told the girls to) just focus. *Buti na lamang nakalusot* (It's a good thing we came through)," Carpio said.

Prenza plays Hope Christian School in the crossover quarterfinal round staring June 30.

"*Malakas ang* Hope *pero sisikapin namin magbigay ng magandang laban* (Hope is a strong team but we will give them a good fight)," he added.

The other quarterfinalists are defending champion University of the East, Batasan Hills, University of Santo Tomas and St. Francis.

This year's champion team will fly to Bacolod for the Tournament of Champions slated July.

Marlon Bernardino, Contributor

SPORTSWATCH

Coach E School enrollees reach 2,000 mark

THE COACH E BASKETBALL SCHOOL HAS BROKEN THE 2,000 MARK FOR ENrollees in the three-year period since August 2004. International Basketball Academy (IBA) president Xavy Nunag said that for this year alone, the school founded by PBA champion coach Eric Altamirano has more than doubled the number of enrollees in all its venues with another set of sessions coming up in July to September. Interested parties may call 631-1195 or 0921-756 2639 during office hours from Mondays to Fridays or log-on to iba_phil@yahoo.com and www.coach-e.com. For Xavier School classes, participants may call 723-0481. Xavier School starts its Tuesday and Saturday classes on July 17 while Friday and Saturday schedules at Clubsixfifty in Libis open on July 27. Also on July 27, The Zone (Makati) classes will be held every Wednesday and Saturday while modules at San Beda College Alabang are every Tuesday and Saturday. Altamirano, who piloted Purefoods to an All-Filipino title in 1997, is joined by former PBA players Joey Guanio, Ronnie Magsanoc and Benjie Paras in the Coach E roster.

Ateneo-La Salle golf duel set June 29

ATENEO AND LA SALLE BREAK THEIR TIE AND DECIDE PERMANENT POSsession of the Classic Cup when they renew their golf rivalry on June 29 at the Canlubang Golf and Country Club. The Green Archers and the Blue Eagles split the first two editions after a new format was used two years ago. To win the Cup, a team must prevail in five of the nine events to be disputed at the North and South courses of the Canlubang golf complex. The nine events are the championship where play will be scratch, classes A, B, C, D, Ladies, seniors and the new Super Seniors (70 and above) which will use handicaps and the open. Shotgun tee-off is at 8 a.m. at the North course and 8:30 a.m. at the South course. For details, call: ADMU Loyola Height, 426-6001 loc. 4083; ADMU Graduate School, 729-6866; DLSU-Manila, 523-6158, 526-5612 or log on to www.dlsaa.com; DLSUPSI (RCBC Plaza), 753-4617; LSGH (LSGAA), 721-2729 and 722-7750; DLS-Zobel, 842-8480; Canlubang Golf and Country Club, (049) 549-1363.

Firebird new PCAP derby leader

THE TEAM OF HOTELIER-SPORTSMAN BIBOY ENRIQUEZ, JOEL FERNANDO and Paul Dominguez grabbed the overall leadership in the Pinoy Cockers Association of the Philippines Cocker of the Year race last Monday at Makati Coliseum. Using the mountain-bred Kelso Sweater bullstags and Hatch Roundheads of Enriquez, the Firebird Jimafer BJ entry vaulted into top spot with a total of 37.5 points after piling up ten consecutive wins in the last two derbies. The PCAP Cocker of the Year winners will be known after the Grand Championship 5-cock derby on July 7. Also gunning for PCAP honors are other top contenders like Sandy Sur, Jun Pascual, Efren Canlas, Rainier Kau, Willie Vilarica and Richard Bates.

Roligon stakes bonus prizes

BONUS PRIZES AWAIT PARTICIPANTS IN THE UPCOMING "HATAWAN SA Tag-ulan" 6-cock derby slated on July 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11 at Roligon Mega Cockpit. Host Rolly Ligon said the fastest win champion and second placer during the elimination rounds on July 3, 5 and 7 will receive P40,000 and P10,000, respectively. A bigger bonus of P500,000 awaits the fastest win champion on July 11. A day champion's prize of P600,000 await participants who can score four straight wins on July 9. The derby has a guaranteed prize of P3.5 million and entry fee of P8,800. For reservation of cockhouses, please call: 851-2275; 833-1638 and 852-9812.

TRIPLE CROWN

Ibarra outstanding 2nd leg choice

CARMONA, CAVITE—"IT WOULD BE BIGGER news if Ibarra loses."

Coming from the owner of one of the contenders in the field, the statement all the more bolsters the general feeling that Ibarra will add the second jewel today to what is expected to be Philippine racing's Triple Crown sweep this year.

The three-year-old son of Yonaguska out of Fire Down Under again sets out as the outstanding choice in a seven-horse field that sees action in the JV Ongpin Cup, the second leg of this year's TC series, at the San Lazaro Park here.

"Frankly speaking, the bigger story in this race is if Ibarra loses," Hermie Esguerra, owner of expected second pick Golden Sutter, told the INQUIRER yesterday when asked what he thought of his entry's chances.

Silver Story

Silver Story was the last local Triple Crown champion in 2001 and not since Sun Dancer in the late 1990s has any horse showed this much potential to dominate a Triple Crown field.

"That's the weight on our shoulders right now, the pressure to win," said Benhur Abalos, Ibarra's owner, in a separate telephone interview. "The horse is still very young and we are looking for maturity."

But there's no concealing Ibarra's huge promise after he ran down the field in the first leg a month ago when he prevailed by almost 10 lengths over a rallying Golden Sutter.

Golden Sutter, the promising progeny of tested American stallion Mr. Sutter, came charging back from as far back as eighth place in the 13-horse field to salvage second place in the first leg.

He will now be sent off as the logical second choice because of the distance of the race, which favors stayers like him.

Undefeated

Antonio Alcasid, a veteran of many Triple Crown races, rides Ibarra as their partnership tries to stay undefeated in six starts, while ace Jonathan Hernandez steers Golden Sutter.

The race is set for 1,750 meters with first place worth P1.8 million out of the P3 million pot put up by the sponsoring Philippine Racing Commission.

Post time is around 5:25 p.m.

Treasured Ack, a speedball to be handled by John Cordero, Es Twenty Six, which will be ridden by Dominador Borbe, Best Kept Secret, to be piloted by Louie Baldoa, Lord Boni, who will be reined in by RG Fernandez, and Passing Through, who will be partnered by Patti Dilema, round out the field.

There have only been eight horses ever to complete TC sweeps in local horseracing's long history, and some of those names, like Sun Dancer, Time Master and Fair And Square, went on to retire to be all-time greats.

Loosen up

Ibarra was worked out for 1,200 meters on Friday, with the colt doing 25', 25', 25' under little pressure from Alcasid.

Yesterday morning, he was trotted for two miles (3,600 meters) to loosen up for the long grind today, the distance of the race after all, not common in the local scene.

"We want to pace the horse, not only for this leg but the next," Abalos added.

The third leg is scheduled next month over the back-breaking 2,000-meter distance.

Meanwhile, a Hopeful Stakes featuring 10 chargers led by speedball Afternoon Delight is also on tap in the 13-race program.

Dilema rides Afternoon Delight, who will be coupled with Ididitmyway as the set out as the slight picks in the P800,000 race spread over the mile at around 6:30 p.m.

Lovely Bid, with Jessie Guce aboard, Legendary (Balboa), Maglev (Borbe) and Superamerica (Alcasid) are the other notable entries.

Musong R. Castillo

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Sound Of Silence (2), King's Treasure (4), Honestly (1), Flynow (3)

Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Royal Warrior (1), Santo Santito (2), Copper Head (3), All For Juan (6)

Race 3—(Tri)—Tellmenolies (4), Pride And Joy (3), Fujioka (2)

Race 4—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Crafty Treasure/Hakuna Matata (7), Gold And Diamond (6), Raven (1), Ingay Ingay (5), Bloodline (4), House Of Riches (2)

Race 5—(Qrt/Tri)—Manila Magic (1), Shipman (3), Formidable Ella (2), Run Like D'Wind (4)

Race 6—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Special Delivery (8), Indnicoftime (7), Thereshope (3), Mighty Mite (4), Smart Aloo (6)

Race 7—(Qrt/Tri)—Ibarra (3), Treasured Ack (1), Es Twenty Six (2), Golden Sutter (5)

Race 8—(Qrt/Tri)—Kai Jason (1), Crystal City (5), Step On The Gas (4), Reigns Supreme (3)

Race 9—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Superamerica (7), Afternoon Delight/Ididitmyway (1), Maglev (6), Legendary (5), Lovely Bid (3)

Race 10—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Daog (10), Smashing Success (1), Reign Of d'Jungle (4), Vhingget (3), Seeing Red (6), Astimegoesby (5)

Race 11—(Qrt/Tri)—Blue Sheikh (2), Refreshing (8), Scarlet Skyterror (6), Miss Bobon (5)

Race 12—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Banknet (1), Madel Line (4), Song Bird (5), Beautiful Jeada (9), Dulce My Love (2)

Race 13—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Special Edition (7), Lyanjonik (8), Sambat (2), Man Power (3), Gundam (10), Storm Hall (1)

THE GOLF Distributors Association of the Philippines (GDAP) renews its appointment of Fairs & More Inc. (FMI) as event manager for its annual Philippine International Golf Show slated October 19 at theSM Megamall. Signing the agreement are: (seated, from left) Golf Show chair and GDAP secretary Ana Herrera, GDAP president Gerald Raymundo, and FMI vice president and chief operating officer Elaine Garcia-Gatchalian.

Antonio bags NCA crown

AFTER 14 NATIONAL DERBIES AND TWO INternational cockfests staged by the National Cockers Association (NCA) at Pasay City Cockpit, Patrick Antonio and son Tony Antonio emerged as the 2007 NCA Cocker of the Year winners recently.

Antonio's Sagupaan Complexor 3000 Selectrogen SSF entry bet tallied 51 points, edging out eventual runners-up Rep. Iggy Arroyo and Arnold Mendoza (Red Creek I, 50), Firefly 13 entry (49) and Gov. Ito Ynares (Binangonan Sundance, 46.5).

Considered as the leading cockers organization in the Philippines, the NCA has 35 prominent members.

Antonio's winning streak continued in the recently concluded SJC International Derby, where he partnered with Joe Sanford of California (PA AS Sagupaan Winning Line) and boxing champ Manny Pacquiao (Super Pacman Complexor) in posting a double.

Out of 16 fights, Antonio, Sanford and Pacquiao racked 14 wins against two losses, a remarkable feat in an international derby.

Nicklaus golf tourney tees off Monday

THE LOCAL QUALIFYING ROUND OF THE Jack Nicklaus International Invitational golf tournament tees off tomorrow at the Tagaytay Highlands Golf and Country Club.

Dubbed the Tournament of Champions, the scramble-format tournament will select the best pair who will represent the Phillippines in the JNII slated Sept. 18 at The Bear's Club, in Jupiter, Florida.

Tournament participants qualify through a purchase of Jack Nicklaus apparel or accessories at any Rustan's Department Store. Qualified registrants will be notified through registered mail or phone call.

Apart from a championship trophy and the honor of representing the Philippines in the second JNII in Florida, the winning tandem will be given round-trip plane tickets plus four days and three nights' hotel accommodations with full meals at The Bear's Club Hotel and Resort Spa.

Second placers enjoy round-trip plane tickets to Hong Kong courtesy of Cathay Pacific, and the third prize winners will get a three days and two nights' stay for a party of four at El Nido Resort in Palawan with full meals and roundtrip plane tickets.

Jack Nicklaus, the 17-time winner of golf's major events, is also the international brand of stylish, high-performance sports and leisure wear.

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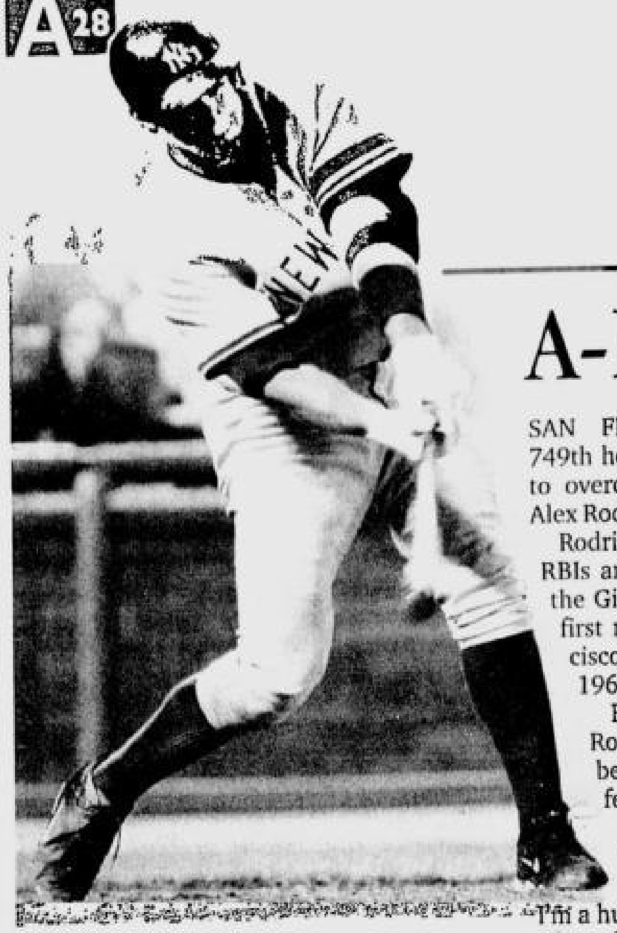


RODRIGUEZ outshines Bonds. AP

A-Rod, Yankees overshadow Bonds' No. 749

SAN FRANCISCO—BARRY BONDS' 749th home run wasn't nearly enough to overcome another big night from Alex Rodriguez.

Rodriguez went 4-for-4 with two RBIs and the New York Yankees beat the Giants, 7-3, Friday night in their first meaningful game in San Francisco since winning Game 7 of the 1962 World Series.

Bonds got the longball, but A-Rod got the win in the matchup between two of baseball's most feared sluggers.

"I'd take two more (Bonds homers) and two more wins," Rodriguez said. "I'll trade that. I'm a huge Barry fan. I love to see great talent be displayed. It's a beautiful thing to watch. As long as we win the game, he can do whatever he wants."

The talk before the game was of the two sluggers: Bonds as he closes in on Hank Aaron's career record of 755 home runs and Rodriguez, the player many consider the biggest threat to hold the record after Bonds.

Bonds connected for his 15th home run of the season in the eighth inning off Scott Proctor, cutting New York's lead to 6-3. But the Giants couldn't get any closer, dropping their season-high eighth straight game.

"I don't think we're thinking that much about Barry trying to reach this milestone as trying to win a ballgame," manager Bruce Bochy said. "That's our focus right now. We need to stop this and we know it."

Rodriguez helped the Yankees bounce back after they were swept in a three-game series in Colorado. His double started a three-run second inning and he also hit RBI singles in the fifth and ninth innings.

Kei Igawa, making his first start after seven weeks in the minors, was sharp early but was removed one out away from a potential win after walking Bonds with the bases loaded to cut New York's lead to 5-2 in the fifth inning. Luis Vizcaino (4-1) came in and Bengie Molina hit a drive to left field that Hideki Matsui caught as he jumped into the fence, robbing the Giants of an extra-base hit.

"That ball had topspin on it," Yankees manager Joe Torre said. "I thought when he first hit it he hit it out of the ballpark. Obviously that was a game-saver for us there."

The Giants did threaten after Bonds' homer, putting two runners on in the eighth before Mariano Rivera escaped the jam by getting pinch-hitter Ryan Klesko to ground out. Rivera got five outs for his ninth save in 11 chances.

After being held to five runs in Colorado, the Yankees scored three times in the second against Matt Cain (2-8) with help from an overeager fan down the right-field line.

Cain allowed five runs and seven hits in five innings and dropped to 0-5 in his last seven starts. Cain walked four and had no strikeouts for the first time in 53 career starts. *AP*

Wimbledon tough for ladies

WIMBLEDON, ENGLAND—THERE'S no easy route to the women's Wimbledon final.

Top-seeded Justine Henin, seeking her first Wimbledon title to complete a career Grand Slam, could face two-time champion Serena Williams in the quarterfinals.

Three-time winner Venus Williams could face 2004 champion Maria Sharapova in the fourth round—and defending champion Amelie Mauresmo in the semifinals.

There's also the chance of another all-Williams final, with the sisters winding up in different halves of the draw.

But with Venus Williams seeded No. 23 and Serena Williams at No. 7, it will be hard road to set up a repeat of the 2002 and 2003 finals.

"I'm feeling a great deal more belief in myself on grass," said Henin, coming off her third straight French Open title on clay. "I must still learn to trust myself more on this surface."

Friday's draw was kinder to Roger Federer, who is seeking to become the first player to win five straight men's championships since Bjorn Borg accomplished the feat from 1976 to 1980.

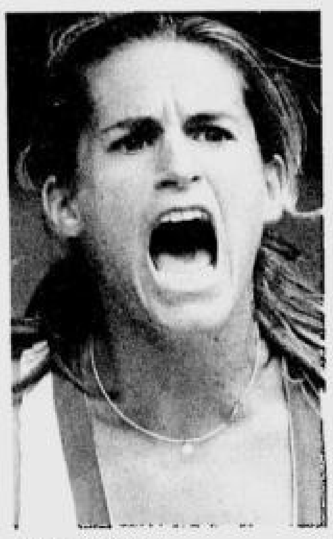
Federer's main rivals in his section of the top half draw are Marat Safin, whom he could face in the third round, James Blake and Dmitry Tursunov. Federer could meet third-seeded Andy Roddick in the semifinals. Federer beat the American in the 2004 and 2005 finals.

Federer will open play on Centre Court on Monday against 85th-ranked Teimuraz Gabashvili of Russia.

French Open champion Rafael Nadal, who lost to Federer in last year's final, has a more difficult path. *AP*

HENIN AP

SHARAPOVA REUTERS



MAURESMO AP

WILLIAMS AFP

Big punchers cross paths

LAS VEGAS—RICKY HATTON PLANS TO come out swinging from the opening bell. Jose Luis Castillo knows no other way to fight than to move forward relentlessly.

The two all-out styles would ordinarily promise one great bout. And there's little doubt that the two fighters at their best would put on just that kind of bout.

But there are questions both Hatton and Castillo will have to answer when they meet Saturday night in an intriguing light welterweight bout.

Has a brutal fight with the late Diego Corrales and the wear and tear of a long career finally caught up with Castillo? Have money and personal problems affected him more than he lets on?

Is Hatton really the "Hit Man," or just a one-hit wonder who parlayed a win over Kostya Tszyu into millions?

Both fighters are coming off of less than impressive performances, giving the questions added legitimacy. But both promise they will be in top form when they tangle in a 12-round fight at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas campus. *AP*

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Sunday BIZ

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

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At 10, she did odd jobs like shining shoes and selling popsicles in a cemetery. Now, she owns and manages the entertainment sites in Greenhills. How did she do it?

Precy's secret

PRECY FLORENTINO

RUDY ESPERAS

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

TRAVELING TO EURÒPE IN THE '70S WITH only a daily budget of $5 was not surprising. But going there with your rich friends and convincing them to do the same was something else.

But that's what Precy Florentino, owner of the Music Museum, The Promenade in Greenhills and the Greenhills theaters, did. She was then 20 years old and the dollar was then worth P6.44.

FIRST JOB

Precy took the trip with her best friend, Edith Alcantara, and Edith's sister, Rose, who belong to the wealthy Alcantara clan of Lanao del Norte. Together, the three ladies toured London, Paris, Madrid and other European cities for four months and had the time of their lives.

Precy's feat is not really surprising for a woman who seemed to have managed to achieve everything what she set out to do. But she says she owes it all to the Alcantara family.

"My exposure to the corporate world and a family-owned business with good corporate values was because of the Alcantara group," she says.

Precy comes from a modest family background. Her parents ran a grocery store who required their children to mind the grocery every summer.

She fondly recalls her father telling her once: "Of all my kids you are the one who will not go hungry."

The father could not have been more apt. At the age of 10, Precy was already working during weekends shining neighbors' shoes for ten centavos a pair. Every year, a few days before All Saints' Day, she would buy white cement from their grocery store on credit and sell the stuff to men who use it to paint tombs. She paid her parents back after sales.

But the work didn't stop there. On the day of the holiday itself, she would go to the cemetery and sell popsicles and ice cream—again bought on credit from their grocery.

THE PROMENADE is a favorite watering hole of young and old alike.

RUDY ESPERAS

Doing something

"I always wanted to do something," she says.

And she saved a lot. After graduating from elementary, she bought a camera worth P500—a huge amount in the 60s. It was not just for pictorials, though. In high school, she dabbled in photography and made money.

She studied and finished business administration at the then Maryknoll College (now

PRECY'S/ B2

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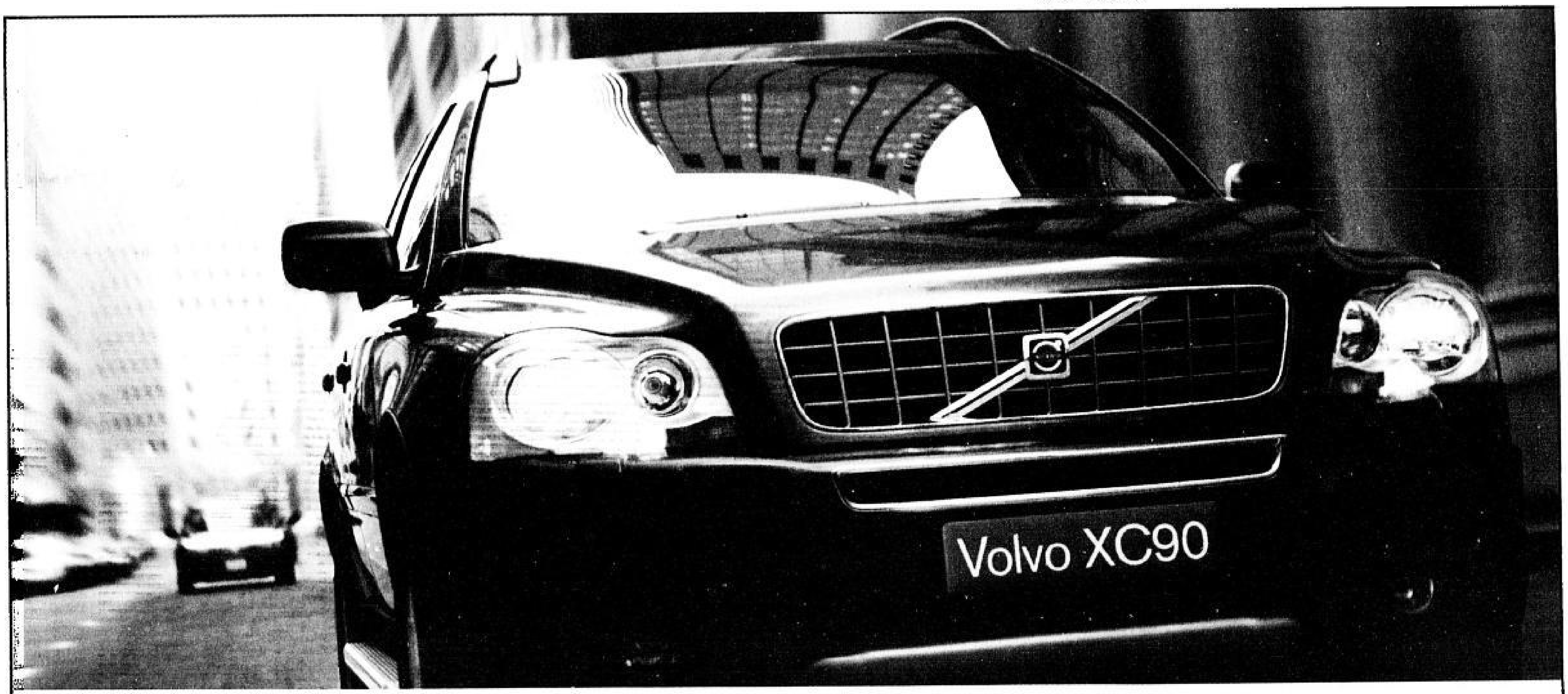

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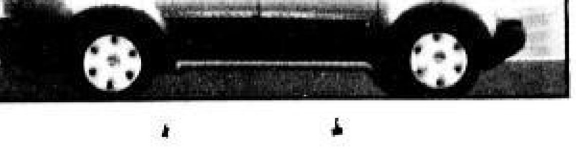
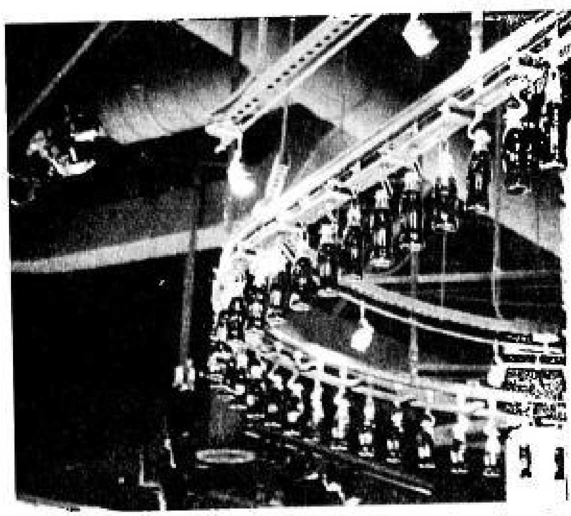
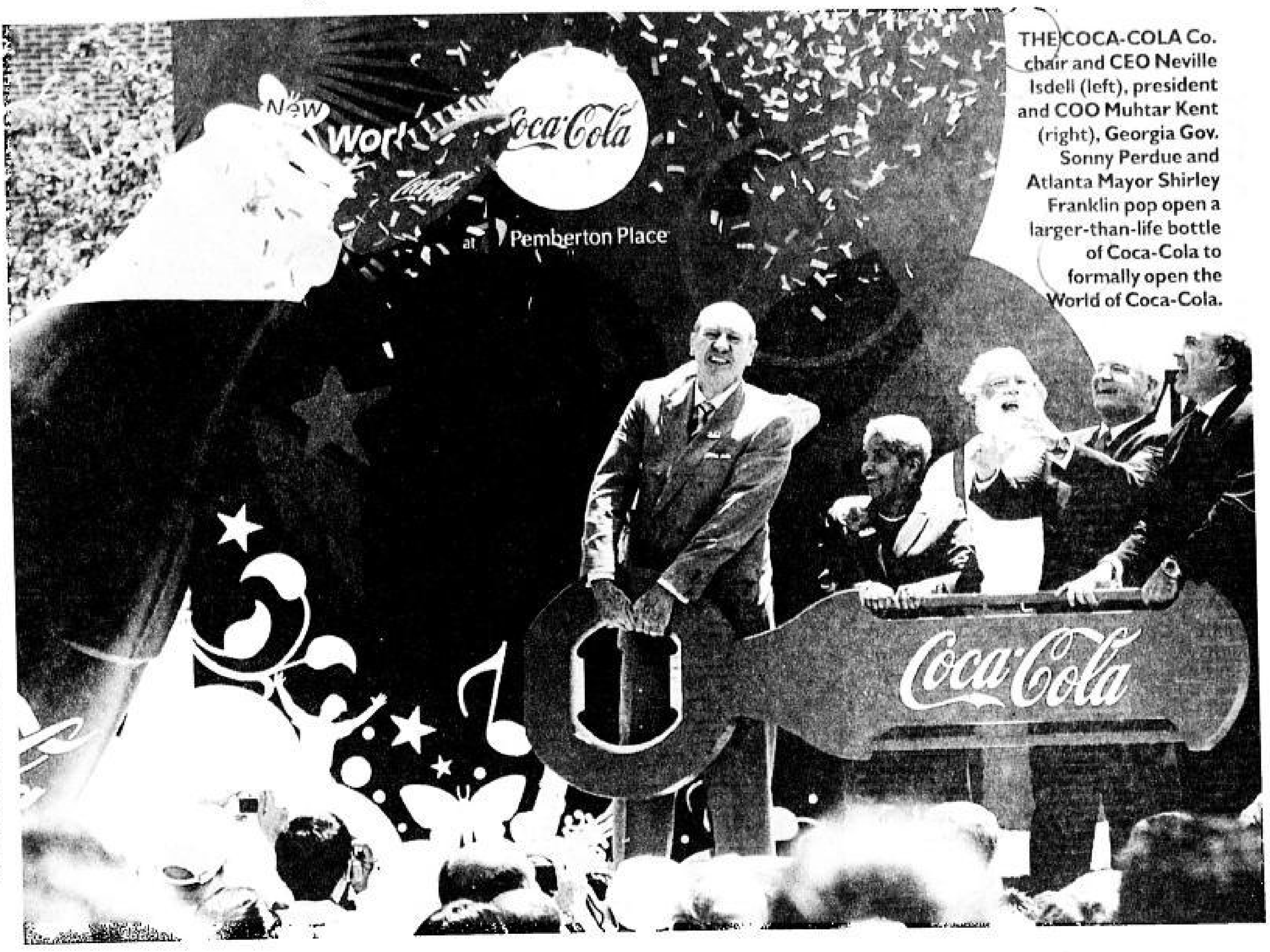




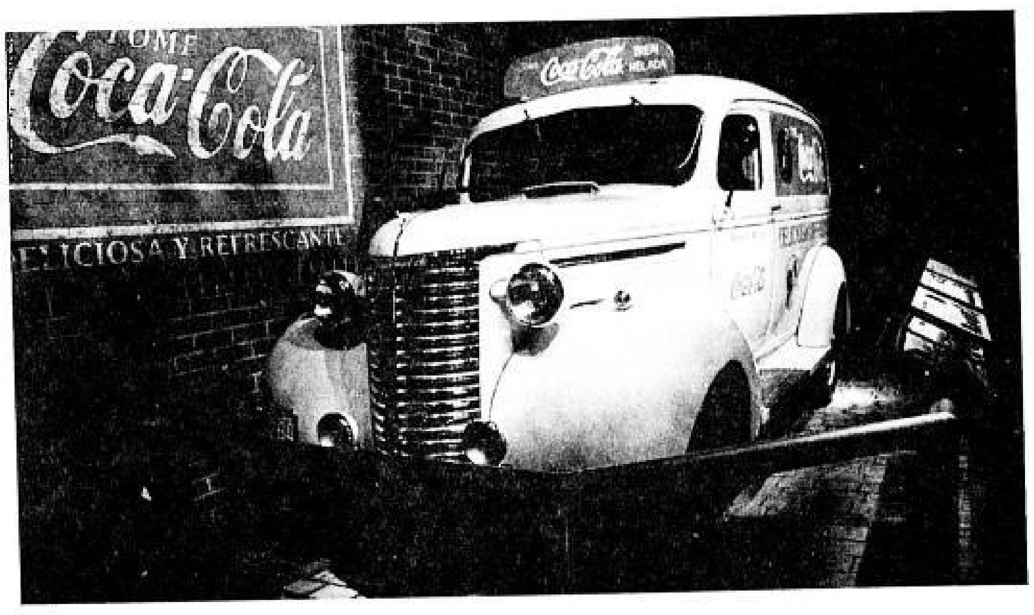
AT BOTTLEWORKS, a functioning bottling plant has been put up.

DIFFERENT vending machines that served Coke products through the years


New World of Coca-Cola at Pemberton Place
Coca-Cola

THE COCA-COLA Co. chair and CEO Neville Isdell (left), president and COO Muhtar Kent (right), Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue and Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin pop open a larger-than-life bottle of Coca-Cola to formally open the World of Coca-Cola.

Coke adds new tourist attraction to Atlanta



A 1930S YELLOW Coca-Cola delivery truck from Argentina

PHOTOS BY RAUL O. MARCELO

TASTE IT! offers visitors the opportunity to sample 74 different Coke beverages from around the world—from Australia's Lift Lemon to Uganda's Fanta Exotic Fruit Punch.

INTERNATIONAL journalists pack the Pre-Show Area, where Coke artifacts are exhibited.

A NEW TOURIST ATTRACTION HAS JUST been added to the cityscape of Atlanta, the capital of Georgia made famous by the CNN Center, the Centennial Olympic Park and the Georgia Aquarium, the world's biggest.

The Coca-Cola Co., the world's biggest beverage company, recently opened a new World of Coca-Cola, which houses exhibits that draw upon the firm's rich history.

More than twice the size of its predecessor, the new World of Coca-Cola at Pemberton Place (named after Coke founder John Pemberton) aims to become another major tourist draw to Georgia's capital. It sits beside the Georgia Aquarium, whose land was also donated by Coke.

It's a walk through Coke's history since its invention in 1886.

Admission to the World of Coca-Cola is $15 for adults and $9 for children. Tickets give visitors specific times to enter. Though more expensive than the original museum rate, Coke officials say visitors will get more bang for their buck, including a complimentary 8-ounce bottle of Coke from Bottle Works.

A 9-meter tall replica of the company's famous contour bottle, lighted at night, hangs above the entrance floor. It's suspended in a 27-meter glass cylinder.

An 8-minute film welcomes visitors to the museum, showing a view of what goes on inside a Coke vending machine. After the film, the screen rises and visitors walk out into the museum.

At Bottle Works, 8-ounce bottles are produced and made available to each visitor before leaving through the gift shop. At Taste It, people also get to taste Coke products sold around the world.

Precy's secret

From page B1

Miriam) in 1968. It was during her college years that she and her friends formed the Friday Club.

After graduation, she worked at the Maryknoll registrar's office which enabled her to interact with teachers and students. She was also a sports events organizer and got involved in team building activities.

Bigger role

Her job experience apparently prepared her for a bigger role—that of building and managing her own business while working as an employee at the same time.

Her foray into entrepreneurship was accidental though. The Friday Club had then watched the first solo concert of Kuh Ledesma. After the show, the group was introduced to Kuh.

The singer, who somehow thought Precy was a lawyer, asked her help in buying a property. Precy obliged and they soon became friends.

When Kuh went into producing concerts, she asked Precy to help. She agreed and helped the singer produce some famous concerts of the 80s that included "Ako ay Pilipino," "Inspired Madness" series and "Ang Pinoy nga Naman."

As her "sideline" grew, a member of the Alcantara clan offered her a job as secretary in one of the family-owned companies. He was Tomas I. Alcantara, who was then trade undersecretary in the Cory Aquino administration. Precy accepted and quit her job at Maryknoll.

She didn't stay long as secretary. She was soon promoted head of the cement group, in charge of exports. Her last post there was vice president for marketing.

She says she learned a lot about doing business from her new job. "I wouldn't know what I now know without the two (referring to the Alcantara sisters)."

In 1988, Kuh Ledesma set up Music and Magic. By 1990 she wanted to record in the US and asked Precy to sell the theater. There were no takers so Kuh asked her to just give a down payment and pay the balance when she's got the money. She took the offer.

A big fire razed the theater two years later, but Precy was unfazed. She rebuilt and managed it and hang on to it even when business slowed down. Before the lease expired in 2000, she asked the Ortigas group, owners of the property, to lease it out to her.

Business acumen

She renovated it by putting two cinemas and a shopping mall. Her friend, Edith, lent her some of the money she needed. The renovation cost P78 million, but that did not stop her from even expanding and renovating the Promenade at a cost of P300 million more. This time, though, banks were ready to lend her the money. It was a tribute to her business acumen.

Recently, she also renovated the old Save a Lot building along Chino Roces Avenue in Makati and transformed it into a call center and commercial area called Allegro.

Keys to success

She did all these while working as an employee in the Alcantara-owned company. And how she managed to be on top of a major construction project while handling corporate responsibilities is a talent and skill only a few have. She even takes a direct hand in the architecture and physical looks of the structures she builds.

Today, her Music Museum Group Inc. has 78 employees and more than 200 contractuals.

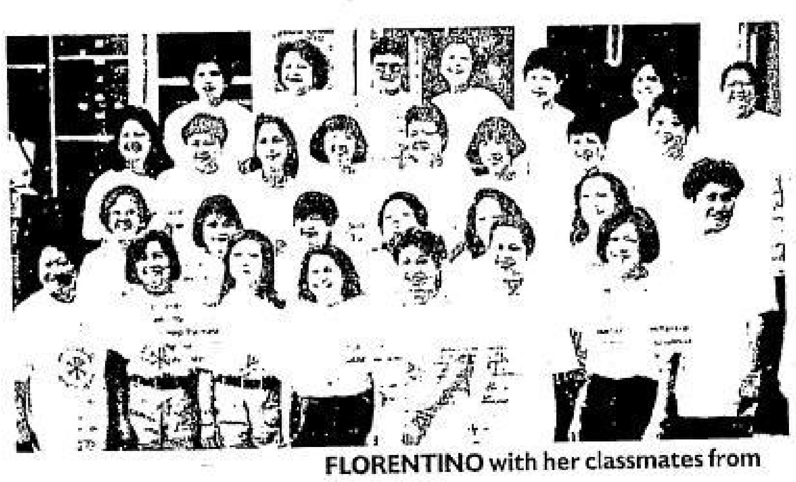
Asked what the keys to her success are, she points again and again to the Alcantaras who have supported her entrepreneurial ventures while working for them.

The other factor she cites is knowing and using the art of "other people's time." She delegates most of the tasks that need to be done, but takes a close look at the operations.

> 'I always wanted to do something,' Precy says

FLORENTINO visits Europe

THE FRIDAY Club



FLORENTINO with her classmates from Maryknoll

Precy retired from the Alcantara-owned company in 2005, after working there for 32 years. At 58 and still single, she says she wants to focus on her own business and enjoy life more.

She now spends her weekends with her family in Bulacan playing mahjong. Most Fridays, she goes out with her college friends who belong to the Friday Club.

Crossroads

Precy finds herself at a crossroads. While some people who had retired would usually decide to take things easy, there is still a passion inside her to accept new challenges that may come her way. She is being offered to undertake a major project.

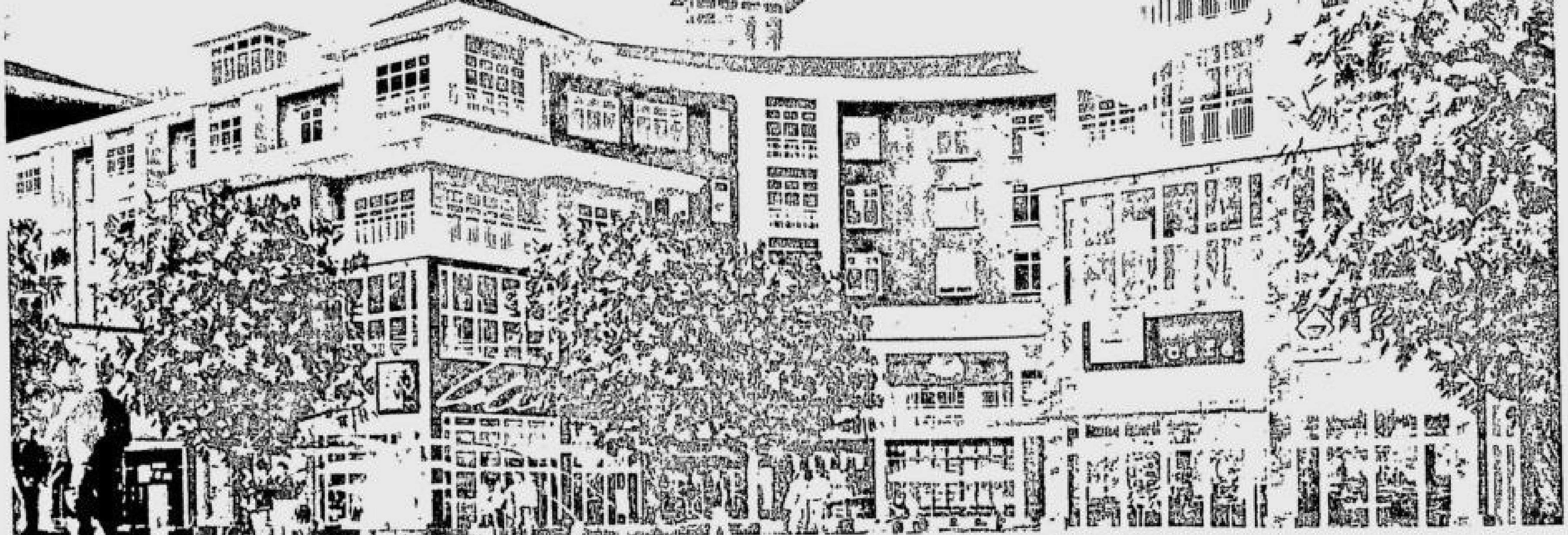
Her favorite reading stuff now is Rhonda Byrne's "The Secret" and says she has realized she has been doing the secret uncovered in the book.

The secret: "Everything that's coming into your life you are attracting into your life. And they're attracted to you by virtue of the images you're holding in your mind. They're what you're thinking. Whatever is going on in your mind you are attracting to you."

A good way to describe how Precy pursued her interests: Visualizing them and simply going for them.

Yet more malls cometh

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao



AYALA Land Inc. adds Serendra to its list of retail center.

WHEN IT COMES TO SHOPPING, FILIPINOS have few equals.

Filipinos have certainly had much practice, with malls of all shapes, sizes and concepts operating in all urban centers and spreading out to the provinces.

And the pace of construction is showing no signs of slowing down with at least two malls rising every year, and that is just from the big players in the retail industry such as the SM, Robinsons and Ayala groups.

There are the other construction firms that are jumping on the retail bandwagon and putting up their own establishments to take advantage of the brisk business.

Growth fuel

Fueling the growth is the unabated growth in the amount of remittances sent to the Philippines by Filipinos working overseas.

There are not only more Filipinos going abroad, they are sending more money to the tune of over $12 billion a year from over eight million overseas Filipino workers.

Add to that the growing population, which now stands at over 86 million people, and there is room for further expansion.

The SM group, by far the largest in the field of mall operators, is not about to stop putting up more malls.

Last year, the SM group opened five supermalls, including the 400,000-square-meter Mall of Asia, which is designed to be the premiere destination mall in the Asia-Pacific region.

Other malls opened last year include SM City Sta. Rosa, SM City Clark and SM City Lipa, all in key cities outside of Metro Manila; as well as the SM Supercenter in Pasig and the upscale The Block in the city center.

As of last year, SM Prime Holdings, which owns and operates the SM Supermalls, has 27 centers with a gross floor area of 3.6 million square meters.

Expansion mode

For this year, SM vice president Millie Dizon said SM continues to be in an expansion mode.

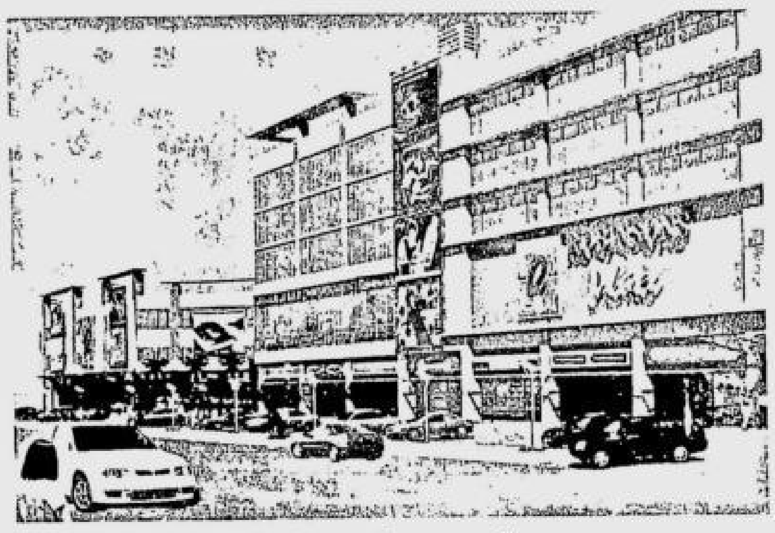
Opened in February this year was the SM City Bacolod, a 60,000-square-meter mall in the Western Visayas region.

"Consisting of two buildings linked together by a scenic bridge, it has been packing crowds since its opening date because of its design and tenant mix," Dizon said.

Also scheduled to open within the year are the SM City Taytay just outside the Philippine capital and SM Supercenter Muntinlupa, a suburb of Metro Manila.

SM will also expand its existing malls: Another 100,000 square meters will be added to SM City in Cebu and 18,000 and 23,000 square meters, respectively, to SM City Pampanga and SM City Fairview.

"All these malls and expansions, including the Esplanade Sunset Strip in the Mall of Asia area, will bring an additional 370,000 square meters," Dizon said.



ROBINSON'S believes there's room for more malls.

> The phase of mall construction is showing no signs of slowing down

"By the end of 2007, SM will have a total of 30 supermalls with a total floor area of 3.9 million square meters," she added.

Out of comfort zone

The Ayala group has also gone out of its comfort zone covering the Makati Central Business District, the premiere financial district in the Philippines, to open its first mall in Quezon City called the Triangle North of Manila or Trinoma.

The project near the depot of the Edsa Metro Rail Transit has 200,000 square meters of leasable space and opened its doors to the public in May.

Trinoma has been described as a super regional mall, which will bring in the best of retail and entertainment in the Ayala malls to the Quezon City market, which has a large middle-class base.

The Trinoma comes on the heels of other concepts, such as the retail portion of the Ayala group's Serendra real estate development in the Fort Bonifacio Global City with 6,000 square meters of retail space.

Then there's the bigger retail area of the Bonifacio Global City itself with 14,000 square meters, which will be anchored by a 40-meter wide and 400-meter long activity park for events, fairs and other activities.

Exciting development

Another exciting development in the pipeline is Greenbelt 5, which was developed in response to the market's clamor for more space for high-end establishments and more restaurants.

To make it different from the other retail outlets, Greenbelt 5 will be dedicated to world-class Filipino artists, be it in food or in products.

The completion of Greenbelt 5, the first phase in October this year and the second phase in the first quarter of 2008, will complete the redevelopment of the Greenbelt area.

Completing the list of the Ayala group's major mall development projects is the redevelopment of the Ayala Center in Cebu, the major urban center outside Metro Manila.

Setting sights

Robinsons Land Corp. has 18 shopping malls—six malls in metro Manila and 12 malls in other urban areas—with a combined 1.26 million square meters of gross floor area, an expansion of 60,000 square meters with the expansions of Robinsons Place Lipa in Batangas and Robinsons Place Dasmariñas, Cavite, both south of Metro Manila.

Revenues from the commercial centers division grew 4 percent from P3.102 billion to P3.221 billion despite the renovation work in several existing malls. This was attributed to a healthy occupancy rate of 93.5 percent and increase in rent.

Robinsons, thus, has its sights set on putting up even more this year, according to RLC president Frederick D. Go.

Go told shareholders during the last meeting that the Robinsons group was excited about the prospects of the property industry.

"We will continue to build new malls and expand our highly successful establishments under the commercial centers division to maintain our position as one of the three largest mall operators in the country," he said.

Over the next two years, Robinsons is scheduled to open up malls in Tagaytay and Pulilan—both near Metro Manila; Dumaguete in the Visayas and Davao in Mindanao, which indicate that much of the retail growth will come from outside the saturated capital of Metro Manila.

Getting on the bandwagon

Real estate developer Ortigas & Co. is also getting on the retail bandwagon, banking on the success of its flea market concept at the Greenhills Shopping Center.

Ortigas & Co. chief operating officer Rex C. Drilon II said in an interview that the group was looking to replicate its formula in more retail areas in the city, particularly in the retail components of its growing roster of housing projects.

He also said that there were opportunities present for the group to take over the operation of existing retail centers that have not truly taken off the ground.

"We cannot fight in terms of scale, but there might be opportunities to turn around retail centers in good locations," Drilon said.

He said there was indeed room for growth in the retail sector as seen in its numbers.

He said the shopping center last year grew by 15 percent year on year, and he expects the growth to continue this year.

SM
City
BACOLOD

THE SM Group still on an expansion mode

Quest for imperfection

From page B4

lay decisions until every last piece of information has been gathered and scrutinized.

For those paralyzed by perfectionism, progress comes by making room for uncertainty. Decisions will always be accompanied by a degree of the unknown, and, as such, it is vitally important for a leader to be comfortable taking action.

Perfection is a destination no one will ever reach. Excellence is a journey open to all. Strive to do your best, and realize the reality of imperfection.

To peruse the full text of Penelope Trunk's article "Breaking the Perfection Habit," visit Yahoo Finance! online: http://finance.yahoo.com/expert/article/careerist/30301.

(For information on John Maxwell's in-house or public leadership or teamwork workshops, please e-mail us at bingericta@gmail.com or call 813-2049/2732 and ask for Bing. Text MAXWELL ON to 4632 (Smart) to get daily SMS leadership insights from John Maxwell.)

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Quest for imperfection

A LEADER'S WAY

John C. Maxwell

WE ARE IMPERFECT PEOPLE leading imperfect lives in an imperfect world.

We see evidence of this imperfection every day in the mirror: Whether it's a receding hairline, wrinkles on our face, or the five pounds we've wanted to lose.

We are reminded of this imperfection periodically on the roadways: We get a flat tire, our car breaks down, or we are rear-ended.

We are taught this imperfection occasionally by nature: A tsunami wrecks a village, a tornado tears apart a town, or a hurricane decimates a city.

Even though we experience imperfection and accept it all around us, we still fall victim to our own perfectionist streaks from time to time.

In her column for Yahoo! Finance, Penelope Trunk spots the dangers of perfectionism and advises readers to break the perfection habit.

Hypercritical attitude

Perfectionists suffer from an almost neurotic adherence to absurdly high standards. They agonize over the simplest of details, and they are intolerant with the slightest of errors.

Even worse, perfectionists may impose their exacting standards on others.

For persons reporting to a perfectionist, the inability to match their manager's lofty expectations can be intensely frustrating. Sensing their work will be judged as too slow or too sloppy (no matter much effort they put in), workers may be tempted to quit trying.

Paralysis by analysis

Perfectionists may freeze up in the face of a project because they refuse to start until they see a chance of attaining perfection. Endlessly deliberating, they neglect action. By overthinking, they rob themselves of initiative, and they may begin procrastinating.

Fear of failure

Perfections have an irrational fear of failing.

Instead of taking healthy risks, perfectionists focus all of their energy on maintaining a veneer of flawless performance. They are apt to squander time minimizing or hiding imperfections rather than capitalizing on their strengths.

Attaining imperfection

Discern between essentials and nonessentials.

A typo on the front page headline of the New York Times—essential. A typo on the agenda of an internal team meeting—nonessential.

For those with the perfectionist bent, a healthy balance comes by recognizing which tasks require topnotch excellence and which tasks simply need to be completed adequately.

Cut some slack

Mistakes are a natural part of life. Try as hard as we'd like, we still fail from time to time. Practice doesn't make perfect. Practice gives us an outlet for mistakes, and mistakes teach us how to be better.

Embrace uncertainty

Perfectionists are prone to de-

QUEST/ B3

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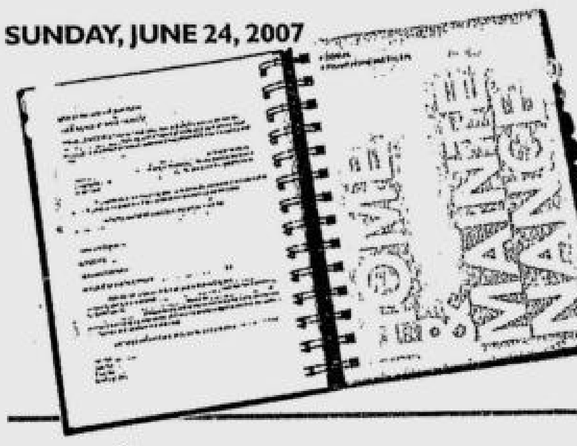


Sunday LIFESTYLE
Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

The gospel of Silvia

LATIN QUARTET. Marit Meland Yuchengco, Lizzie Eder Zobel, Soledad Bescos Gonzales and Silvia Davalos, authors of the guide to living in RP for expats, pose with their husbands at the book launch

Four expat women make things a little easier for other expats by putting together what they call a black book of secrets that you can slip into your handbag

By Pam Pastor

THE EXPAT LIFE IS NOT AN EASY one.

No one knows this more than Lizzie Eder Zobel, Marit Meland Yuchengco, Silvia Davalos and Soledad Bescos Gonzales—women who came from different countries and have made the Philippines their home.

Lizzie, originally from Colombia and married to Ayala Corporation chair and CEO Jaime Augusto Zobel, has been in the country for 20 years. Marit, who is half-Spanish and half-Norwegian, moved to the Philippines with her parents and ended up marrying a Filipino. She has lived here for 10 years. Soledad Bescos Gonzales, who is Spanish, resided in the Philippines for three years with her family until they recently moved to Brazil. Silvia Davalos, from Ecuador, has been in the country for two years.

They are all part of the Latina group of expat women who regularly bond.

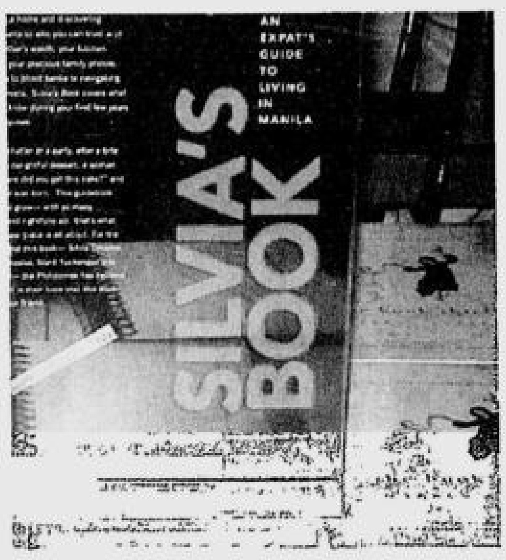
Says Soledad, who has lived in a number of different countries, "You move from one place to another and nobody gives you information. No one shares their secrets."

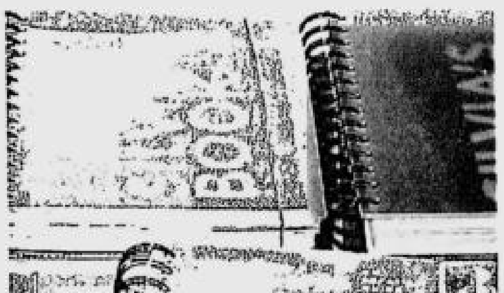
The support of other expat women is very important. Marit says: "The first day I met Soledad, I welcomed her to the Philippines and I brought her a little paper with maybe 10 names of doctors and a few other things. I said this is for you. Because these are the things they start asking us for."

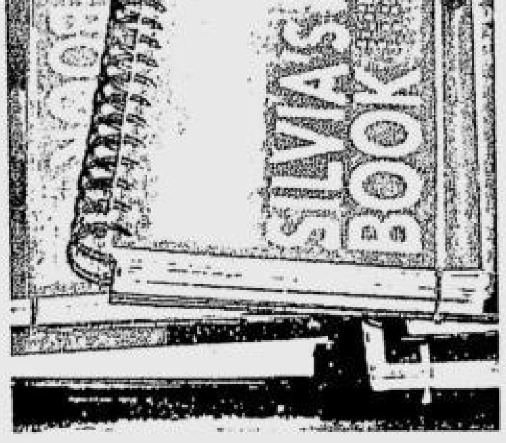
It is no different from what other women who are part of the Latina group do. They call one another up asking for tips—where to get flowers, which doctor to call, which caterer to use, among other things.

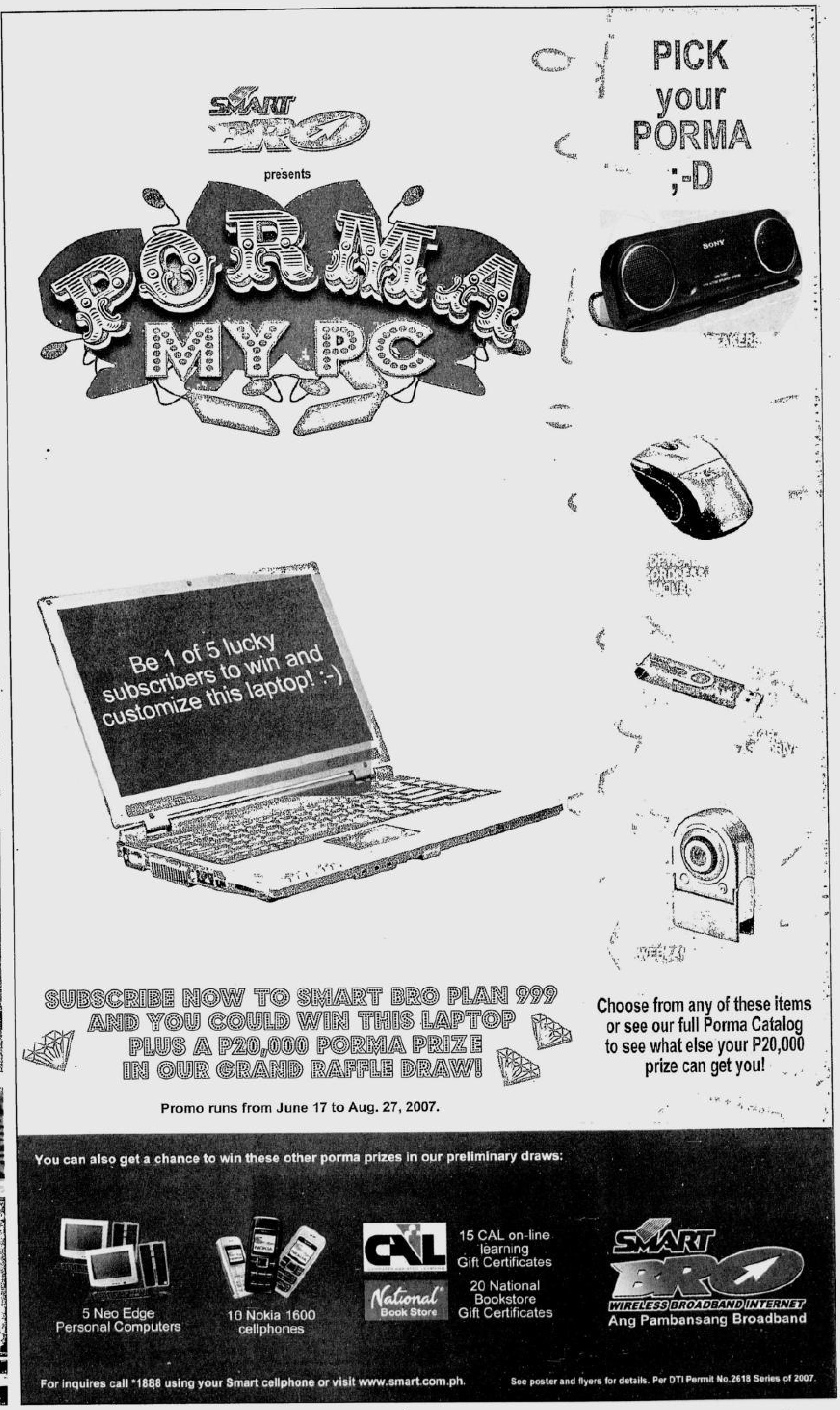
And while the practice of calling up one another for tips has worked for years, the women have found a better way to help expats more efficiently.

THE GOSPEL/ C3





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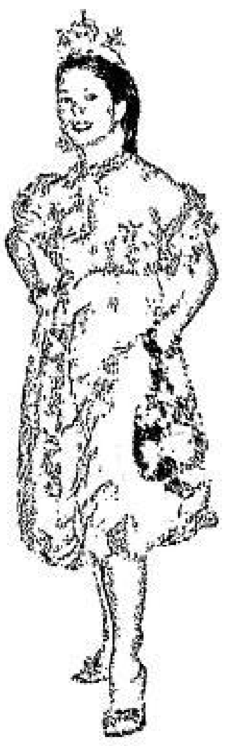
PLDT Smart Foundation launch of Artists In Development with chairman Manny Pangilinan and Anthony Pangilinan and the generous artists

SOFITEL Chefs on Parade Carlos Carballo, French pastry chef Herve Le Clanche and executive chef Chris Werdenberg

Sweating out to find my inner balance



TESSA!

Tessa Prieto-Valdes

I practice Bikram yoga in a heated room. It detoxifies and makes you lose sweat and weight. It also makes you hungry

BALANCING LIFE'S MANY FACETS IS A continuous challenge. And achieving equilibrium is easier when we engage in regular exercise, proper diet and some form of meditation, whether prayer or deep thought.

That's why I practice Bikram yoga. This excellent exercise, done in a heated room, gets practitioners all drenched in sweat after the 90-minute moving class. It's a great way to detoxify.

My son **Bryan**, newly arrived from his college graduation, tried it out in **Tristan Choa**'s Bikram Manila Studio at 88 Corporate Center in Salcedo Village, Makati (www.bikramyogamanila.com) and was hooked. As a newbie, he is not yet too agile, yet he is determined to get more fit by the time he joins the workforce.

For a more intimate setup, check out Bikram Studio, owned by **Pye Trinidad** (0917-8340659). The energy here is more feminine (read: less smelly!) but with the same intensity.

For a more focused meditation in yoga, there is the original Ashtanga. My scuba buddy, **Liana Romulo**, started Yoga Manila (www.yogamanila.com), thus reviving the shala group that my ex-teacher, **Bela Lipat**, left behind. Together with my other yoga mates, they have opened classes in Ortigas, Makati and Alabang, including classes for kids, prenatal mothers and gentle yoga.

Liana, a multi-faceted, dynamic beauty and brains, has added another feather in her cap with her new project, Yoga Asia Magazine. Published by Spa Asia, there are informative stories about the benefits of yoga and balancing a yoga body and a Buddha mind.

For a very limited time, ultra-cool **Robert Dario** is conducting Hip Vinyasa classes at Yoga Manila. If there were a coolness quotient in yoga, Vinyasa would top it. The sounds of Chicane, Café del Mar and Hotel Costes are in the background while Robert leads the class with his soothing voice and suave manner.

Spa world

After all that bending and splitting, aching nerves and muscles need a relaxing break. That's why yoga and spas go together.

Spas are everywhere, from the tiny but complete Urban Spa (www.urbanspaphil.com) in Shang Mall to the newly opened, top-of-the-line Chi Spa in Edsa Shangri-La Hotel. Spa Asia will surely feature this divine oasis of tranquility right in the heart of our bustling city. Inaugurated last week with no less than President Macapagal-Arroyo as guest of honor, Chi Spa has its own private entrance separate from the busy hotel. The soothing aura in Chi provides instant calmness.

The Philippines is fast becoming a preferred spa destination. We really should focus on promoting our country's many assets, such as our native massage treatment, *hilot*.

All that exercise works up our appetites. Luckily, one of the things we do well is eat. There is no buffet like a hotel buffet and the new kid on the block, Spirals at the Sofitel Philippine Plaza (tel. 551-5555), is a buffet par excellence.

French food fest

To celebrate French Spring in Manila, Sofitel and Alliance Française organized a four-day culinary festival that culminates today with a Sunday Champagne Brunch featuring the four prime culinary regions of France—Bretagne, Provence, Franche-Comte and Dauphine.

Still part of French Spring in Manila, Alliance Française also brought in Compagnie 9.81, an amazing French aerial acrobatics performance at the CCP. Watching the modern, solo circus act of **Eric Lecomte** was like viewing a graceful Spiderman suspended on elevated boards. It was a balancing show with a display of perfect mind and body control.

Celebrities for charities

Speaking of balance, it is a wonderful practice to always set aside something for charity. The rewards are reaped tenfold, as lives are transformed by the charities we support.

The PLDT Smart Foundation has started Artist In Development (AID), a program consisting of a network of celebrities that will support the Foundation's projects, especially those in community development and poverty alleviation. AID believes that having famous faces participate in its projects will provide the motivation for many others to volunteer and help out as well.

In the same way that famous international artists like **Oprah Winfrey** and **Angelina Jolie** started the trend of being personally involved in socially responsible acts, I eagerly joined the PLDT Smart Foundation's AID program, together with several other talented showbiz artists. We hope that our combined ideas for raising funds and creating awareness will translate into successful AID programs.

Business leaders like PLDT CEO **Manny Pangilinan** have taken this innovative path in "giving back." Like MVP, we, too can balance our lives better through little acts of charity.

Camp-bound

When I think about balance, I always think about my kids. They are, after all, the *raison d'etre* of our lives, and our balance is their balance. Each of our kids goes through different stages of life and next week, my 11-year-old, **Tyrone**, leaves for a month-long summer camp as part of the Children's International Summer Village. So many parents and children who are participating in this program will be saying their summer good-byes as well.

The kids have all been training in Philippine folk dances and other skills so they can properly represent our country to their foreign co-campers. It's an exciting time, but also a stressful one as these young ones go off on their path to maturity. So I'm going to relax with a good Bikram session and a strenuous massage after.

New president

BMW Philippines recently hosted an exclusive dinner to introduce its affable new president, **Andreas Biehler**, to the media.

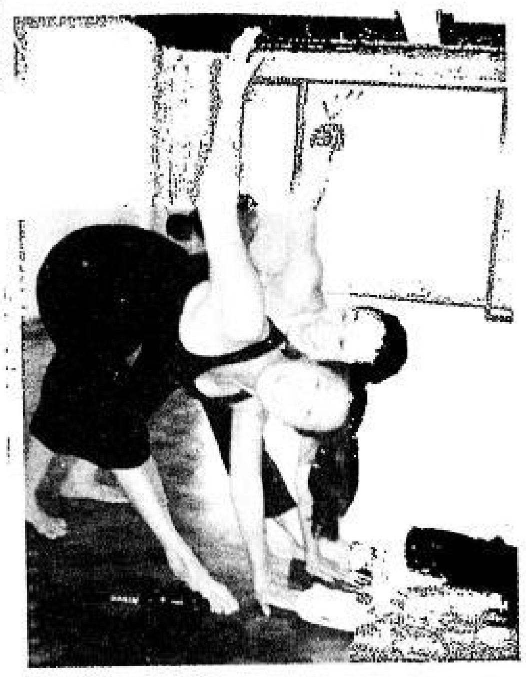
Andreas comes to the Philippines from his most recent posting in Germany where he was in charge of the sales region Berlin and Brandenburg.

But he is no stranger to Asia. Since joining BMW in 1997, Andreas lived in Korea for five years and has been assigned to various roles in China and Japan.

Mr. Biehler is joined in the Philippines by his wife **Ming Kyung** and their 3-year-old son, Julian.

E-mail the author at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph

YOGA masters Hoze Arando and Cherry Du



SISTERS in yoga motion Maritina and Liana Romulo

VINYASA class of hip yogi Robert Dario

YOGA Manila founders Berta Feliciano and Liana Romulo

PANDANGGO sa Ilaw dancers Tyrone Valdes and Binni Monfort

CISV Italian delegation leader Sunshine Burgos with Binni Monfort, Steffi del Rosario, Martin Lee and Tyrone Valdes

SOFITEL family chef Carlos Carballo, Yasmine Hidalgo and Melanie Pallorina and INQUIRER Super! columnist Janine Cuenca

TALENTED designer friends Lulu Tan Gan, OJ Hofer, Tonichi Nocom and Gerry Katigbak

NOKIA royal couple William Hamilton Whyte and friendly wife Angelique Repapas

SOFITEL'S Rose Libongco

BRITISH Ambassador Peter Beckingham and lovely wife Jill

ALLIANCE Francaise's Olivier Dintinger and aerial acrobat Eric Lecomte

INQUIRER President Sandy Prieto-Romualdez with Tatler editor Anton San Diego

MING Kyung Biehler, Andreas Biehler and Leana Farrales

LEANA Farrales, Nikki Banzon, Jose Mari Ugarte and Ditas German

The gospel of Silvia

From page C1

The book

It started with a cake—rich, moist, chocolate cake.

Silvia was having lunch with the Latina group when she exclaimed over the cake that Lizzie served, "Wow, Lizzie has time to bake cakes!"

No, Silvia was told, Lizzie didn't bake the cake.

"You can get it from Yulo down the street. It's better, it's nicer, it's homemade. You don't have to do everything," said Marit, who was also at the lunch.

"You know, Marit, if I knew all those things, my life in the Philippines would have been much easier," said Silvia.

And that was how the idea for the book dawned on Silvia, Lizzie, Marit and Soledad. They decided they would put together a little guide for the Latina group.

The plan seemed simple enough—the other women would feed Silvia the information and she would compile everything. They dug through their phone books and started making recommendations.

"We kept feeding her and feeding her and the little pamphlet became bigger and bigger," Marit said.

Soon, it became quite obvious to them that that their little pamphlet could turn into a big book. They spent a year-and-a-half working on the guide.

Marit says the most challenging part is making sure all the information is accurate. "We had to keep verifying all the numbers. There were tutors who didn't have a landline, who changed their numbers all the time. Filipinos are very mobile, extremely mobile. They keep moving around. So we said, if they're not there anymore, don't kill us because when we called them the last time, they were there."

There were other women who contributed one way or another to make their book a reality. Marketing manager Shoma Gosh helped get sponsors. Fran Ng and Camille Manas Javier edited the book. Chachi Rosales Montaner and Janine Tan Ngo of k2interactive worked on the book's graphic design. And Amanda Lyum Aboitiz took the photographs for the different sections.

When the time came for them to choose a name for the book, they already had the answer: "Silvia's Book."

"Silvia didn't want it to be called 'Silvia's Book' but from the beginning, when we would work on it, we called it 'Silvia's Book,'" says Soledad.

And the name is just fitting. "Silvia's our friend but she's the symbol of all of us," Marit says. "We were all Silvia at one point."

Mixture of secrets

Today's 'Silvias' can turn for help to "Silvia's Book," which Soledad likes to think is "a mixture of secrets."

Marit says, "It's a black book of secrets that you can slip into your handbag. It's a solution book."

And this solution book has advantages over your regular yellow pages.

"The yellow pages may have everything, but everything here is something we have tried ourselves. If I didn't try it, Lizzie tried it. If Lizzie didn't try it, some of our friends tried it," shares Marit.

The book may be out in the market now but the group has no plans of stopping.

"We will keep updating it. We'll do another edition maybe in two years. We'll also put up a website where we can answer questions and get feedback. The hard work is over, we just have to keep updating," says Marit.

Although she claims they had to edit down the book because they had over 200 pages at the height of compiling it, "Silvia's Book" remains very thorough.

The book does not just provide phone numbers and addresses. There are a lot of tips as well—chapters devoted to getting settled, education, leisure, travel, shopping, even household help.

"Some people would have problems because they've never had maids living with them before. That's a main topic for us," notes Marit.

The chapter on health is also very important, she stresses.

"Foreigners come here from other countries and they have health concerns about the vaccines. You don't need all that unless you're going to live on a pig farm."

Pinoy peculiarities are also discussed. Things like color-coding ("It's very annoying because it has nothing to do with the color of the car."), typhoon signals, even street names that keep changing. No topic is considered too trivial. Opening a bank account and getting a driver's license are covered.

"You have to know these things and these are things you only find out when you've lived here for a while," Marit said. But the book is one way of making things easier.

The women wrote in the introduction, "For all the Silvias out there, we hope this book becomes your friend."

All proceeds of the book will go to the Holy Family Home Foundation Makati, a home for abandoned and neglected girls at risk run by Tertiary Capuchin Sisters.

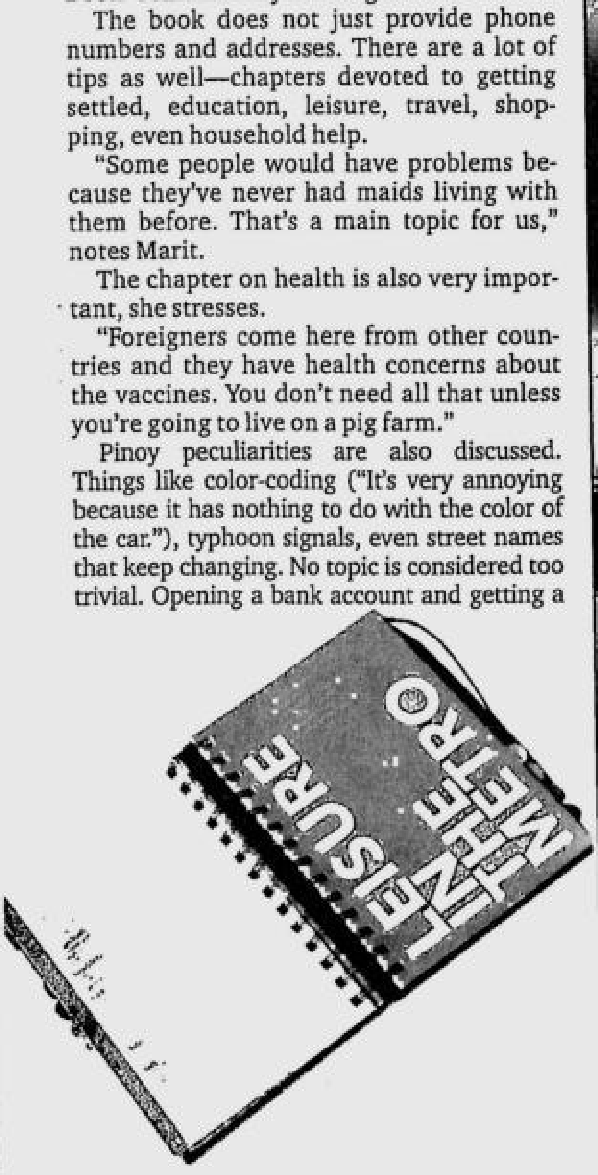
The book is also the women expats' way of paying tribute to Manila, a city they have come to love.

"What makes Manila pretty is the people. They are warm. They are curious about you," Marit says.

Adds Soledad, who will have left Manila by the time this interview comes out: "I'm gonna miss a lot of things."

"Silvia's Book" is available at Fully Booked.

SOLEDAD Bescos Gonzales and Marit Meland Yuchengco



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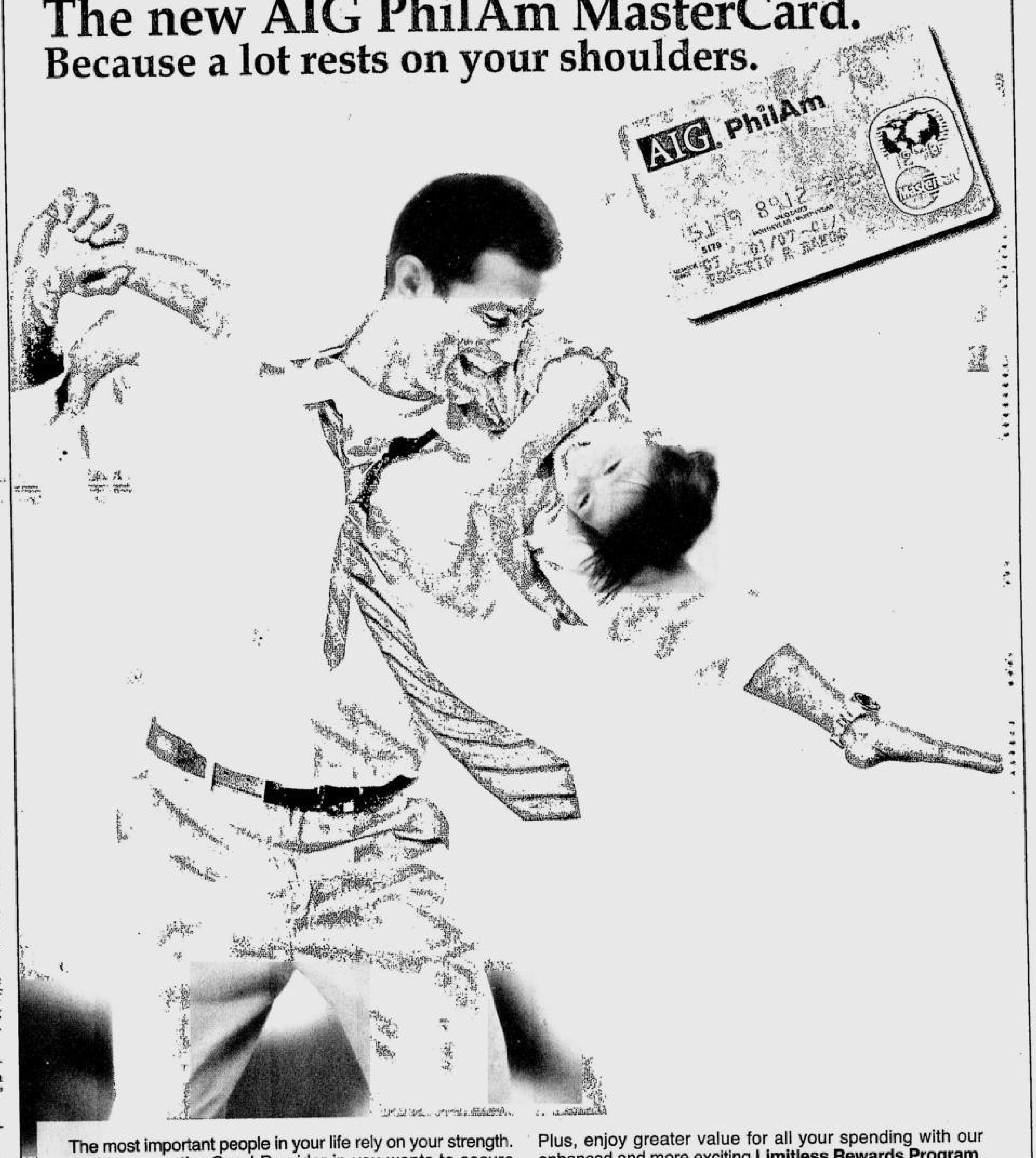

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ROOTS AND WINGS

Cathy Babao-Guballa

Breast milk is always best

BREASTFEEDING HAS BEEN AT THE FOREfront of the news this week.

Alarmed by the decrease of breastfeeding rates in the country, the Department of Health formulated stricter policies last year to curb the unethical marketing of breast milk substitutes. The Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (RIRR) of Executive Order No. 51, otherwise known as the "Milk Code," now imposes heavier fines for violations of the code.

Baby milk companies, through the Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Association of the Philippines (PHAP), opposed the new regulations, as expected. Both sides met last June 19 at the Supreme Court to present their oral arguments. They have now been given 30 more days to present their replies.

The breastfeeding culture in the country is clearly dying. At present, 13 percent of infants nationwide have never been breastfed, and the Philippines has the lowest "ever breastfed" rate among 56 countries that conducted Demographic Health Surveys in the last 10 years.

Half of newborns in the country stop breastfeeding exclusively by the time they are 24 days old, as opposed to recommendations by the World Health Organization and Unicef that mothers should breastfeed their babies exclusively for six months. Worse, families spend P21.5 billion yearly to buy infant formula.

'Formula for Disaster'

The DOH says milk companies are subverting and flagrantly violating even existing regulations by peddling their influence on health professionals and through multibillion-peso marketing and advertising campaigns that seek to delude consumers.

> Any mother who has breastfed her child knows the pure joy that comes from the experience and the benefits that both mother and child can gain from it

To emphasize and support this reality, Unicef created a documentary entitled "Formula for Disaster" to open our eyes to the situation and hopefully put an end to it. I previewed the film last night and came away with the hope that a peaceful solution can be achieved by all parties concerned.

Clearly, and without a doubt, breast milk is STILL the best option for babies. Every mother worth her salt should strive to breastfeed her child, at the very least, for six months, and ideally up to 2 years old. There are a multitude of resources available through hospitals, the Internet, support groups, and other organizations that help encourage and aid every mother to breastfeed her child.

I think the problem lies in the information available for mothers, most especially at the grassroots and lower-income levels. More money (but from whom? I ask myself) should ideally be put in to establish lactation centers; to educate nurses, midwives and health workers on the benefits of breastfeeding; provide incentives for breastfeeding mothers at the lower-income level; and create programs to educate them on the many benefits of breastfeeding.

There also needs to be a reorientation in the corporate world. Many working mothers opt to stop breastfeeding because it is too much of a hassle. But companies, too, need to be more sensitive to the plight of breastfeeding moms. How many corporations are able to provide a space for breastfeeding mothers to safely and peacefully produce milk or breastfeed babies at work?

How many malls provide safe and clean breastfeeding areas for their mother-shoppers? Currently, there are breastfeeding areas only in certain SM Malls, but we understand that Rustan's plans to set up its own breastfeeding lounges soon.

Advocacy

In the Philippines, there are people such as Dr. Elvira Henares-Esguerra and Nona Andaya-Castillo who are very passionate about raising the country's consciousness on the benefits of breastfeeding. As part of their advocacy, the two women run the Breastfeeding Clinic (4444716, 8891105) to provide support for parents and breastfeeding mothers.

Esguerra and Castillo are International Board Certified Lactation Consultants (IBCLC), two of only five in the country. The clinic holds classes on infant and young child feeding, including reestablishing breastfeeding (relactation) and sustaining breastfeeding beyond two years.

The clinic also provides actual support for breastfeeding initiation in the hospital, as well as specialized massages for pregnant and breastfeeding mothers. Fathers or a parenting partner are trained on how to do these massages. Lastly, the clinic offers assistance during actual childbirth delivery until the first breastfeeding.

The two women have also established the Philippine Lactation Resource and Training Center at Tesda, where breast counseling support is readily available. Esguerra, a dermatologist by profession, has also helped set up the Philippine Academy of Lactation Consultants Inc., a multi-specialty group within the Philippine Medical Association that advocates the benefits of breastfeeding. The organization has recently made breastfeeding a part of Continuing Medical Education.

The country needs more programs such as these. Perhaps if the "warring" factions genuinely have the best interests of the child in mind, a peaceful solution to the problem can be achieved.

Breast milk will always be best and that is a scientific fact. Any mother who has breastfed her child knows the pure joy that comes from the experience and the benefits that both mother and child can gain from it.

E-mail the author at cathybabao@gmail.com

Why mother's milk is special

- HUMAN MILK IS DESIGNED FOR Babies. Human milk is species-specific. The milk of each mammal species has adapted to supply its offspring with what is needed for optimal growth and survival.
- Human milk has anti-infective properties. Breastfeeding mothers often notice that their children are sick less often than children who aren't breastfed.
- Human milk contains essential fatty acids. The essential fatty acids in human milk optimize cognitive function and vision. Studies have found that premature infants who received human milk via feeding tube were more advanced developmentally at 18 months and at 7-8 years of age than those of comparable gestational age and birth weight who had received formula by tube. The hormones, live antibacterial and antiviral cells, and essential fatty acids are just some of the reasons human milk is the vastly superior infant food. It is a truly unique substance that cannot be copied artificially.

From the La Leche League International website www.lalecheleague.org

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Per DTI-NCR Permit Number 2268, Series of 2007

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

Weddings

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Pretty as a picture Caroline Dizon and young, southern gent Mark Gorriceta, a lawyer, pledge to be together forever in elegant rites at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Tagaytay

GORRICETA-DIZON NUPTIALS

A romantic highland wedding

By Maurice Arcache

IT WAS A CLEAR, CRISP, COOL day, for the chic wedding done close to the heavens, *palanggas*.

Pretty-pretty as a picture Caroline Dizon and young, dashing southern gent Mark Gorriceta, a lawyer, pledged to be together forever as they were united in the Holy Sacrament of Matrimony at the Our Lady of Lourdes Church in the most romantic of all places, the highlands of Tagaytay, dahlings.

The bride, Carry, is the daughter of business magnate Manuel and Leovigilda (nee Dimanlig) Dizon from Pampanga. The groom, Mark, is the son of the late well-respected mayor of Pavia, Felix Gorriceta, Jr., and the *tres charmante* Dr. Sandra Sarabia Gomez from Iloilo.

For this beautiful couple's wedding, no stone was left unturned (which is so Ilonggo, *palanggas*). The creative and talented southerner Robert Blancaflor of 1816 did a fantastic job with the floral arrangements for the church, the entourage, and the Tagaytay Midland Veranda at Tagaytay Highlands, which was the venue for the grand and elegant dinner reception.

The bride wore a super chic Rajo Laurel wedding gown that had a gorgeous embroidered train that went from here to eternity, *palanggas*. The designer also took charge of the gowns of the ladies in the entourage.

The groom and groomsmen wore suits cre-

A ROMANTIC/ D2

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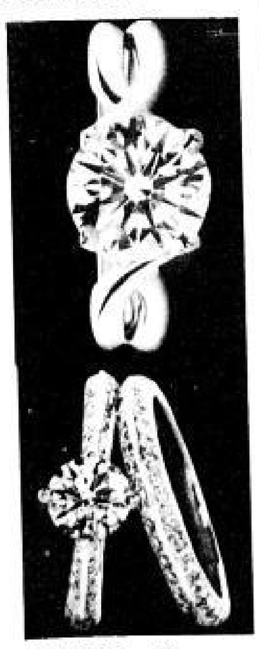
THE ULTIMATE wedding proposal could only mean popping the question with the most dramatic ring—Hearts on Fire from the world's most perfectly cut diamond.

It features a ring of eight hearts when seen from below and a symmetrical fireburst when viewed from the top.

- There are four C's to know when choosing a ring. Cut (angles, shapes and proportions); Carat (weight); Color (the whiter, the more valuable); and Clarity (fewer inclusions or flaws).
- Studies found that almost 80 percent of women preferred platinum, like the setting of Hearts on Fire.
- In buying an engagement ring, know her ring size. Ask family members or close friends.
- Know and consider her tastes and preferences. Look at her choice in clothes and jewelry, as well as her upbringing.

Hearts on Fire diamonds are exclusively available at Vanafi at The Podium, Glorietta 1, Shangri-La Mall, NAIA Terminal 1, SM North Edsa's The Block, and SM Mall of Asia.



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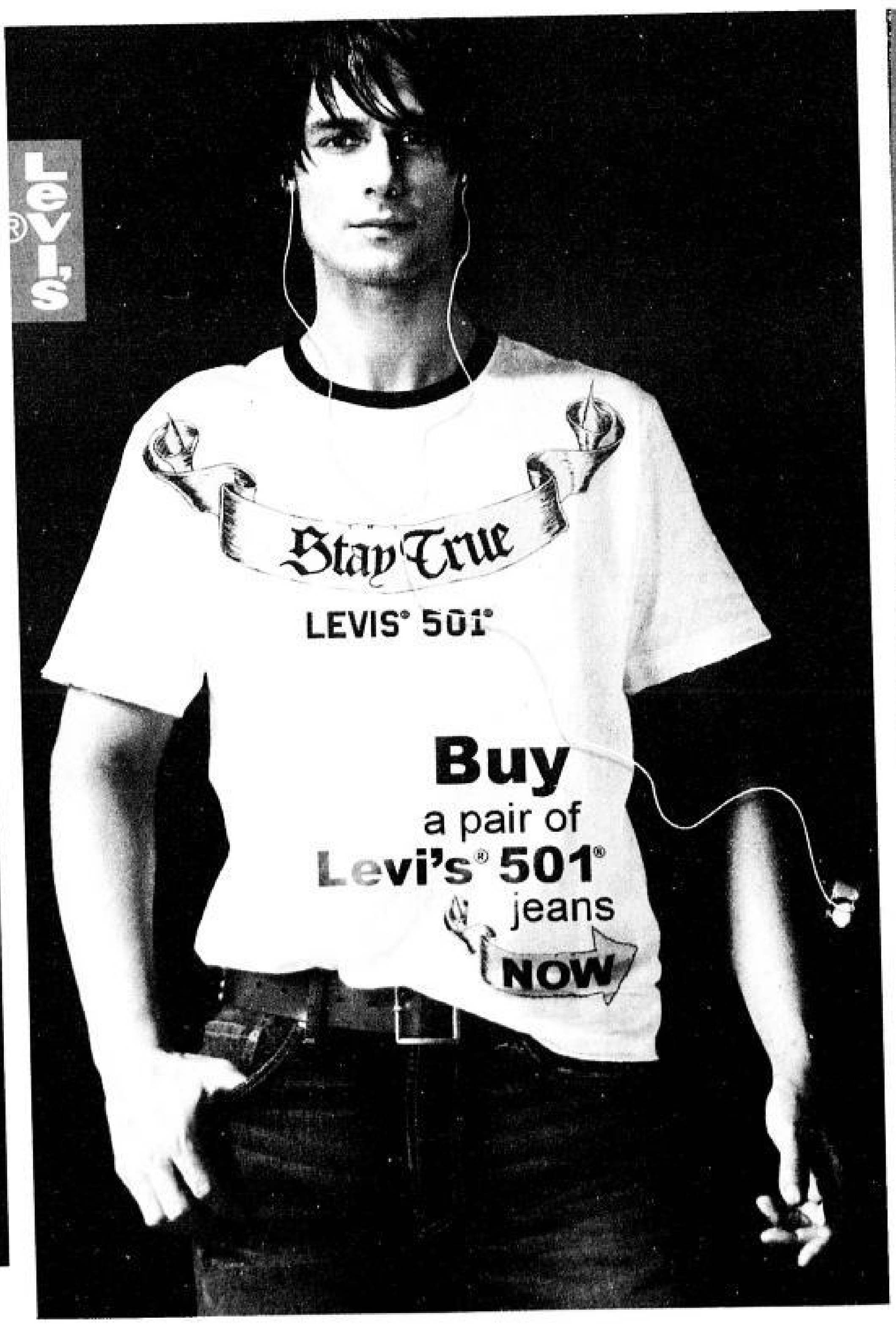

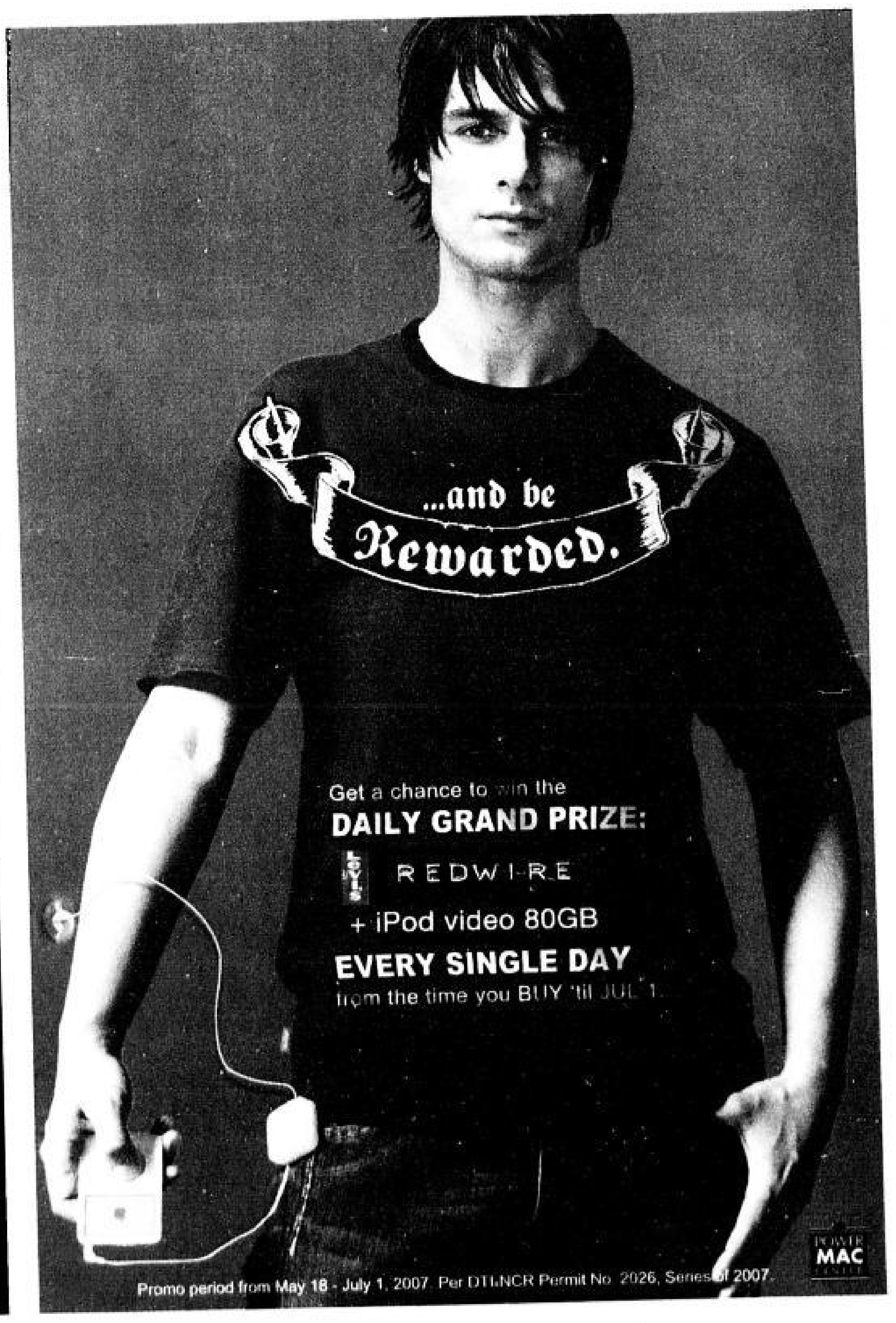
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GROOM'S immediate family

JR Dizon, Leovigilda Dizon, Carry and Mark, and Mel Dizon

Aromantic highland wedding

GORGEOUS Allana Montelibano

MOTHER of the groom and Sarabia Hotel's grand first lady Sandra S. Gomez

From page D1

ated by another southerner, the popular Randy Ortiz.

Fabulous music

During the church ceremony and at the wedding reception later, background music was provided by the fabulous Manila Philharmonic Orchestra. At the cocktails and after dinner reception, mood and music was provided by the Sound Salad that kept the invitees rocking and rolling.

The beautiful young faces there included Marjorie Florete, Allana Montelibano, and Ruby Chan. The men included handsome Mars Florete, Martin Soriano, plus all the adorable young pals of the groom from Iloilo like Michael Lao, Wendell Wang, Dale Divinagracia, Niño Magallanes, and James Borres.

Also there were the not quite-so-young but still adorable, more matured but still young-at-heart set, dahlings.

Nenita Zegala of Celebrations, did a great job supervising and coordinating the *charmant* occasion. Elaine Young created the eye-catching multi-tiered fondant cake.

Naturellement, the wedding bands were made according to the couple's specifications by Karat World Fine Jewelry, managed by the groom's brother, Felix "Trix" Gorriceta III, no less.

Mark G. is a young, hot lawyer in our town while his wife Carry handles the day-to-day operations of her sister-in-law Pauline G. Banusing's restaurant Freska that serves Ilonggo seafood dishes. The restaurant has a branch in Tiendesitas in Pasig, among others, *palanggas*.

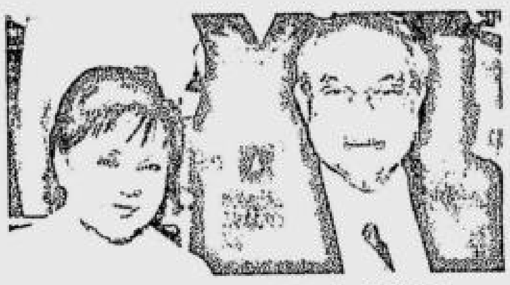
With a beautiful union like this you can be sure there will be loads of jet-setting between Cosmo *Manille* and the thriving city of Iloilo.

Cheers to our *palanggas*—Mr. and Ms Mark Gorriceta!

MARK'S Iloilo High School gang

DR. MELVIN SARABIA, with Celso Ledesma and Martin Soriano; (above) Ruby and Edwin Chan

ILOILO representative of 3rd District Arthur Defensor



DR. VIVIAN Sarabia and Pavia, Iloilo Mayor Arcadio Gorriceta

TOURISM Usec. Salvador Sarabia, Jr.

ILOILO City Mayor Jerry Treñas and his wife Rosalie

THE NEWLYWEDS with principal sponsors

CARRY and Mark; Margie Florete; Susan C. Florete; Mars Florete, and lawyer Jojo Javelosa. The flower girls: Nadine Banusing; Isabel Espinosa and Bettina Gorriceta

---

Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the INQUIRER, *P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.*

NGO-ABU

Jefferson Lee Ngo, son of **Justino N. Ngo** (deceased) and **Lee Guat Eng**, will wed **Anna Marie Caraig Abu**, daughter of **Mauricio** and **Maria Abu**, on July 29 at Patio Victoria, Intramuros, Manila. The bridal gown was designed by **Emily A. Aguirre**.

DAVID-NAVARRO

Engineer **Patrick Nicholas P. David**, son of engineer **Isaac** and **Leticia David**, will wed **Christine T. Navarro**, daughter of **Catherine T. Navarro**, on July 7 at the Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Intramuros, Manila. Reception will follow at Villa Inmaculada Hall. The bridal gown was made by **Edward Teng**.

LAZARO-CAPATAN

Rainer Lazaro, son of **Gabriel** and **Agueda Lazaro**, will wed **Mary Claire Capatan**, daughter of **Voltaire** and **Francisca Capatan**, on June 30, 10 a.m., at San Rafael Parish Church. Reception will follow at Luntiang Paraiso in Guiguinto, Bulacan.

CRUZ-LA COMPTE

Edwin A. Cruz, son of **Aurelio** (deceased) and **Gliceria Cruz**, will tie the knot with **Gretchen la Compte**, daughter of **Carl Jr.** and **Lilian la Compte**, on July 21 at the Shrine of Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life, Reclamation Area, Pasay City. Reception will follow at The Garcia Villa, Balagtas and Balmori Function Rooms, The Peninsula Manila.

LEE-CUIZON

David Y. Lee, son of **Yung** (deceased) and **Violet Lee** of San Francisco, California, wed **Irene C. Cuizon**, daughter of **Elpedio** and **Ma. Tessie Cuizon** of Carcar, Cebu, at the St. Catherine Parish Church, Carcar, Cebu. The reception was held at Theotokos Shrine.

EMILY'S POST

Emily Marcelo

Husband's old GF wants 'closure'

DEAR EMILY,

I would like to appeal to that Muslim woman who recently wreaked havoc in my life. She was an ex-girlfriend of my husband during his stay in Sulu in the mid-1980s.

She was the first woman to whom my husband gave his PMA mini-ring. When she decided to marry someone else, as my husband was not yet prepared to settle down at the time, she returned the mini-ring.

But she appears to have severed her ties with her husband when she lived abroad. She came home early this year. She contacted my stepson through the Friendster web page, asking for his e-mail address or contact numbers.

Then she contacted my husband via the same web page. Though she was told by my husband that she was just a cherished memory of the past with no place in his present or future, she persisted in keeping in touch with him.

As she belongs to the circle called "kaydet girls" of PMAers during her time, she somehow managed to locate my husband and has been calling him up, asking to meet, etc.

She said she just wanted to ask if my husband received the mini-ring she returned 20 long years ago and she wanted closure and a formal breakup with him.

My husband and I had several fights about this already. Although he said he never met her, I, however, discovered that her number was saved in my husband's cellular phone as "Tom D." She changed her number after I found out that she and my husband had been sending text messages to each other, and again contacted him.

To my husband's credit, the billing statements for his cell phone do not show that he has contacted her, though that is inconclusive evidence.

My husband has always been loving and caring toward me and our children. He encourages me to pursue my career and has opted to be de-commissioned from military service to earn more for the family.

Other than the usual spats and differences in tastes and opinions that characterize married life, I have no complaints about him.

That is why I thought of writing you hoping you could help us out by publishing my letter. I just want this woman to know that there is basis for the Tagalog saying "'*pag palay na ang lumalapit, tinutuka na ng manok*."

As a Muslim woman, she should not do things that could be perceived as immodest and immoral.

Certainly running after a married Christian man cannot be described as modest.

MARITESS

I can understand your anguish at the intrusion of your husband's former girlfriend into your lives. However, despite your request, I cannot, in conscience, publish her name.

If you want change to happen in your marriage, it is your husband that you should focus on. No amount of seduction will succeed, if he is immune or at least steadfast in his resolve to resist that temptation.

But he obviously is enjoying reliving his PMA days and this old flame is gladly orchestrating it all.

Since he, as you mentioned, has not stopped being a loving and caring father and husband, appeal then to his sense of family and ask him to stop this cell-phone flirtation before all hell breaks loose.

Point out to him that there are none so blind as those who refuse to see! That might jolt him out of his reverie and wake him up to the real danger of losing his family!

While you're at it, refrain from going the fishwives' route. Don't nag, don't be troublesome. Maintain your dignity and composure and allow him to see clearly what he has now and what he turned his back on years ago.

What may have been wonderful once may be really yucky now. Just be the better woman. That won't be lost on your husband.

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to INQUIRER. Listen to Ms Marcelo co-host the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," 7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, on dwBR 104.3 FM.

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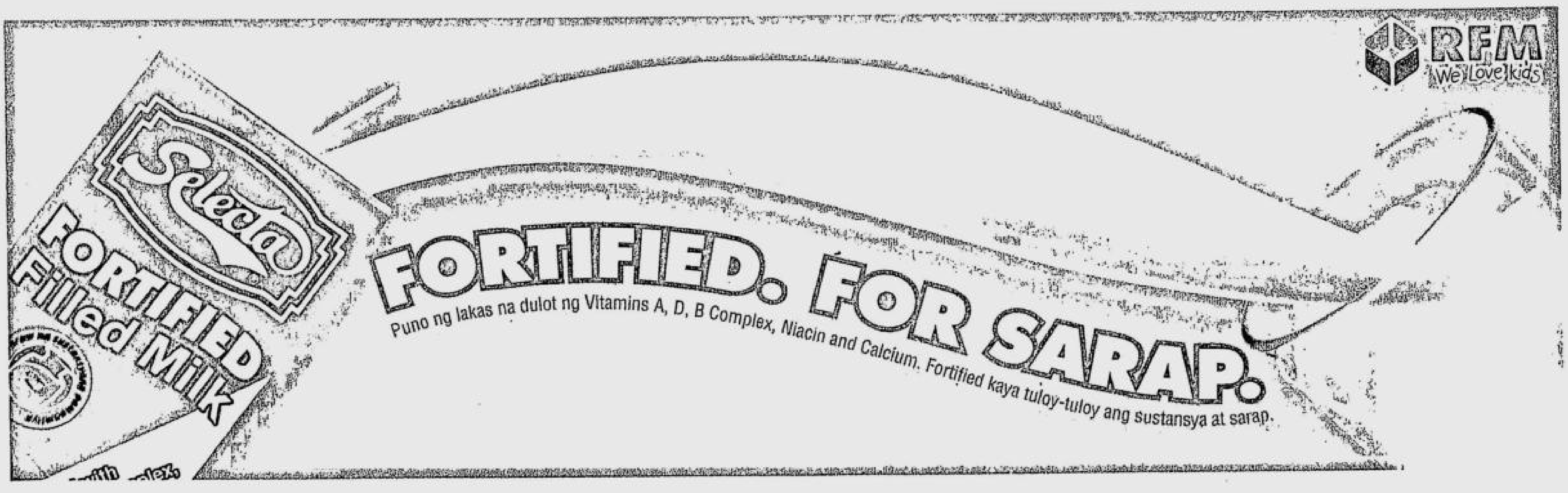


Puno ng lakas na dulot ng Vitamins A, D, B Complex, Niacin and Calcium. Fortified kaya tuloy-tuloy ang sustansya at sarap.

DR. HELENA Z. Benitez (center), who marks her 93rd birthday on June 27, poses with Dr. Lulu Trias, Erlinda Chincuanco, Sonia Atabug and Charing Villar

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

'Tuloy' restores the dignity of a child

FOURTEEN YEARS AGO, FR. ROCKY Evangelista took 12 boys off the streets and gave them a home in the Don Bosco compound in Makati.

The boys were given the chance of a life time—to get an education and know about Jesus Christ.

Fr. Rocky was able to construct a 3.5-story building with a dormitory, study area, dining room and kitchen. The priest ran the "Tuloy sa Don Bosco" program with volunteers and the kindness of donors like the Consuelo Foundation, Philippine Rotary Club and individual donors.

In 2001, the children moved to the 4.5-hectare Streetchildren Village in Alabang, Muntinlupa leased from the Department of Social Welfare and Development. They study using a Department of Education-approved curriculum.

Today, Tuloy has 201 residents and 397 non-residents.

Fr. Rocky said he focused on restoring dignity to the children. The priest said the children suffered trauma and needed love and caring.

The school needs P3 million a month for expenses, including water and electricity and salaries.

This school year, Tuloy's wards include: levels one to three (equivalent to elementary in the formal system), 164 students aged 9-18; levels four to five (equivalent to high school), 100 students aged 9-18; vocational-technology courses for ages 17-22: automotive, 42 students; ref and aircon, 34; baking, 33; and CompTech, 35. There are also 162 on-the-job trainees.

The complex has two volunteer "house parents:" Cathy Go was a senior officer of the Bank of Philippine Islands and Marivi San Juan was vice president and country representative of Bank of New York in the Philippines. Cathy co-founded Tuloy with Fr. Rocky, while Marivi is the head of the marketing and project development department.

Tuloy Foundation, Inc.'s board of trustees consists of 12 Filipinos, one American, one Spanish and one British.

Fr. Rocky, a Salesian priest, was ordained in 1970 by Pope Paul VI in St. Peter's Square, together with 279 deacons from 65 nations. He does what St. John Bosco tried to do for streetchildren during his time. With Fr. Rocky still looking for streetchildren, the place needs help.

Patience, prayer and the kindness of benefactors helped build 10 residential structures, the school building, skills training workshops, central cafeteria and sports/recreation center in the village. The chapel, convent and volunteers center are under construction.

A LEVEL 1 student learns how to use a computer from a student in Computer Tech/Data Encoding at "Tuloy sa Don Bosco" school.

President Macapagal-Arroyo was guest of honor during the inauguration in 2001.

Since it opened in 1997, the school has graduated over 480 in basic education and 800 in vocational technology.

All this was made possible because one priest cared and the Don Bosco community gave its support while the Board of Trustees sends donations regularly.

But additional help is needed. Write to Fr. Rocky Evangelista, president and project director, Tuloy Foundation, Inc., Alabang-Zapote Rd. cor. San Jose Village, Alabang, Muntinlupa City 1770. E-mail fr_rocky@yahoo.com or call 7750483 or text 0928-5049739.

Thanks to Aurora Lazo, a board member, for making me aware of this amazing miracle.

Tita Helen's birthday

The Philippine Women's University will mark the 93rd birthday of its board chair Dr. Helena Z. Benitez on June 27. A Thanksgiving Mass will be held at 11 a.m. at the Our Lady of Miraculous Medal chapel at the Manila-Taft campus. University chaplain Msgr. Hernando Coronel will officiate, with Fr. Antonio Lazaro as co-celebrant.

The PWU community thanks the Lord that *Tita* Helen is still healthy and has a sharp memory. The HZB Hall, a museum and art gallery, will have its soft opening.

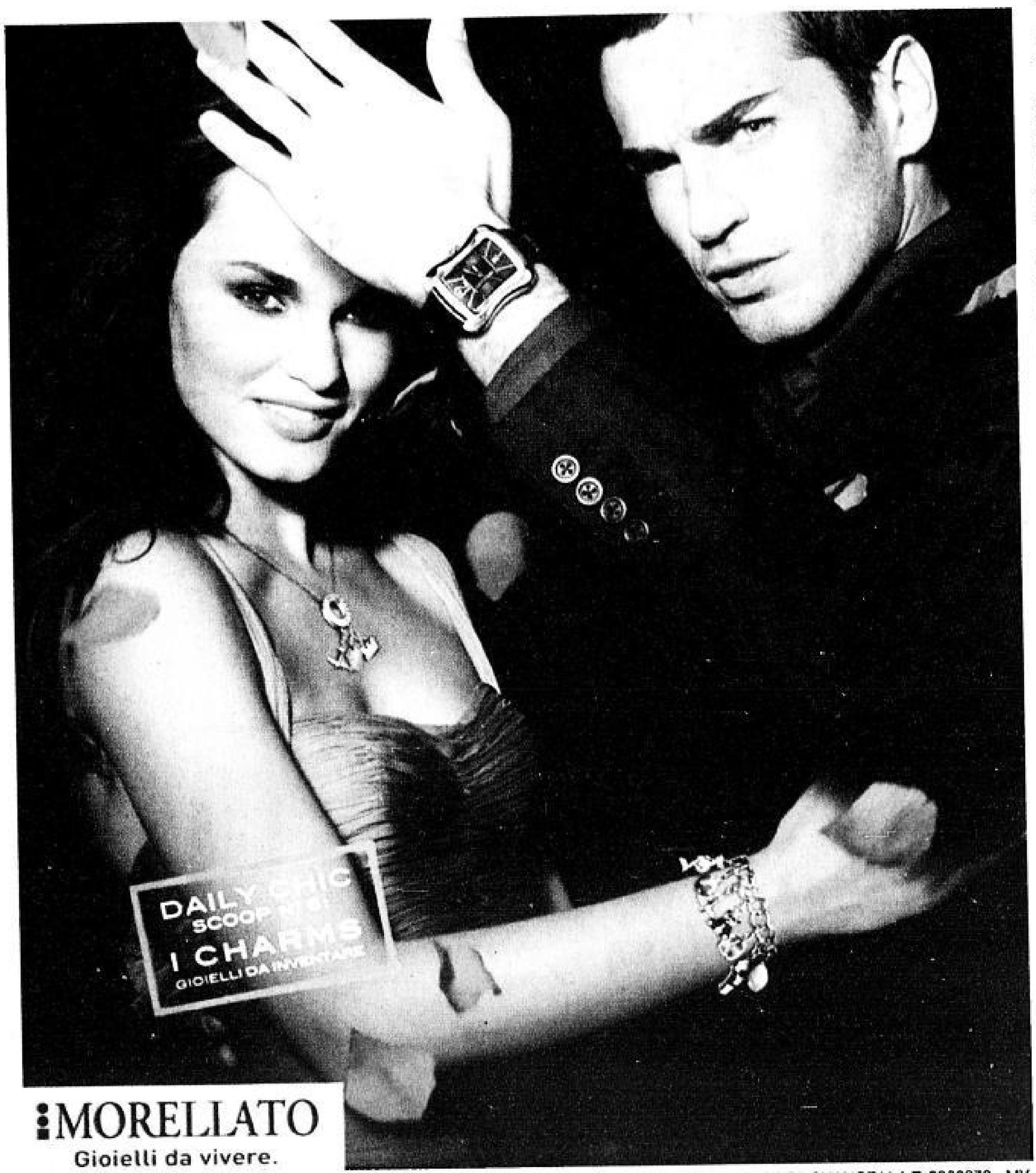
Talking fondly about her aunt over lunch, Petty Benitez-Johannot told me *Tita* Helen was always focused on what she was doing, especially providing education through PWU. Petty is now back after 26 years abroad. She is the executive director and curator of the Ayala Museum.

Tomorrow, the PWU Doctor of Education Alumni Chapter led by Dr. Lulu Trias will have a pre-birthday celebration for *Tita* Helen at 3 p.m. at the Conrado Benitez Hall. Speakers will talk on *Tita* Helen's various involvements like women's causes, diplomatic organizations, home economics, legislation and education. The PWU School of Music led by Dean Harold Galang will have a presentation.

Help needed

Sr. Pilar Verzosa of Pro-Life Philippines is appealing for help. She said, "Our volunteer counselors are busy all day answering calls from girls and women in distress due to pregnancy they did not expect or due to sexual abuse. Lately, we have been getting calls from battered wives. But the greatest number of calls are from teens asking questions on love relationships and premarital sex."

To raise funds, Pro-Life is presenting the Repertory Philippines' musical "Cinderella" at 10 a.m., Aug. 18, at On Stage Makati. Proceeds will help open more counseling centers. Donations to Pro-Life are tax deductible. Call 9112911 for tickets. To donate, text Sister Pilar at 0920-9455494.



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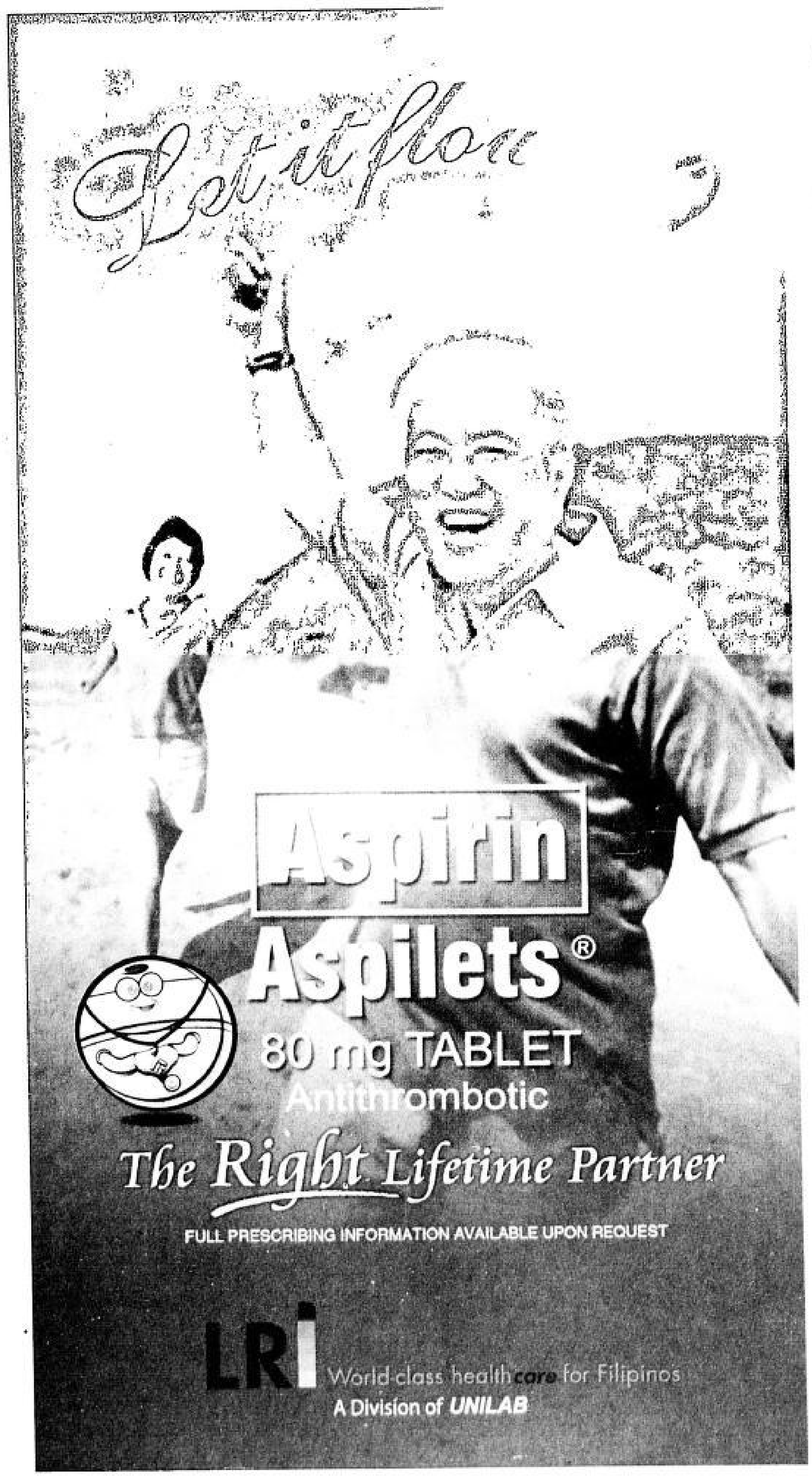
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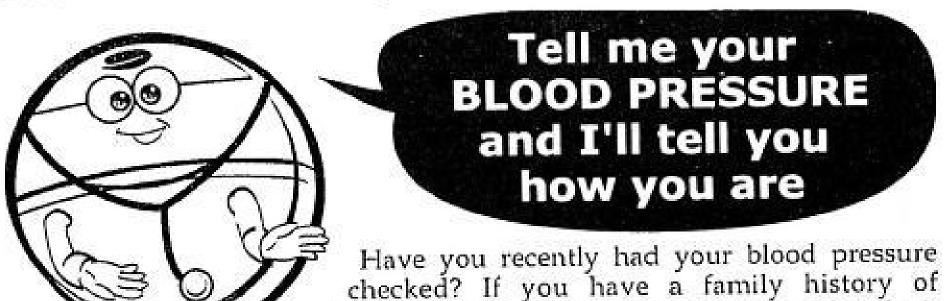
Tell me your BLOOD PRESSURE and I'll tell you how you are

Have you recently had your blood pressure checked? If you have a family history of hypertension or lead a highly stressful lifestyle, it is important that you have your blood pressure checked. Just because you feel healthy does not mean that your blood pressure is normal. High blood pressure, in fact in most cases, has no symptoms. Even children may have it but it is more common among people from age 35 and above. If you have recently discovered a high reading of your blood pressure, it is a warning that you must regularly watch your blood pressures. Let's look at the meaning behind the numbers in the blood pressure reading.

JNC VII Blood pressure classification levels

Blood Pressure Category	Systolic (mm Hg)	Diastolic (mm Hg)
Normal	Less than 120	Less than 80
Prehypertension	120–139	80–89
High		
Stage 1	140–159	90–99
Stage 2	160 or higher	100 or higher

When your blood pressure reading is normal, make sure to have it checked at least every two years. If your reading falls under prehypertension, your doctor will tell you if you are at high risk of having high blood pressure based on your family history of hypertension or your lifestlye. He may require you to have your blood pressure checked more regularly. If your reading constantly falls under high, it may mean that you have to adhere to lifestyle changes, such as exercising regularly, quitting smoking and drinking, managing stress, maintaining proper diet and losing excess weight. This is required because of the numerous risks it poses such as coronary heart disease and stroke. When it is present with other conditions such as diabetes, the risk of events such as stroke, heart attack, kidney and heart failure are even higher.

Antihypertensive agents are available in different kinds. Unless there are contraindications, hypertensive patients are also prescribed aspirin together with their current antihypertensive medications. **Aspilets**, the aspirin considered as the **the right lifetime partner**, of hypertensive and diabetic patients, provides numerous benefits because it prevents the blood from clotting or thickening and blocking the blood vessels. When an artery is blocked, the blood that supplies oxygen and nutrients to the entire body may become insufficient and may lead to complications like heart attack, stroke and peripheral arterial disease. Most people who already take it daily refer to its benefits as "*pampalabnaw ng dugo*", a drug that keeps your blood flowing. It is to be taken daily with your antihypertensive medication because it helps minimize the risks of cardiovascular disease which is the leading cause of death worldwide. Do not hesitate to consult your doctor for the other important benefits you may derive from taking Aspilets everyday. Remember, the blood plays an important role in keeping our bodies healthy, so *let it flow.*

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Shrine to cutting-edge creativity

Three years and P1.5 billion later, De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde opens a 14-story steel-and-glass tower to house its School of Design and Arts

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Chito Vecina

ONE OF THE REGION'S leading educational institutions has come up with a novel, if a bit expensive, way to inspire its students to think outside the box as they collaborate with each other and tap into their individual creativity.

It took three years and P1.5 billion for the De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde (DLS-CSB) to open a cutting-edge steel-and-glass tower on P. Ocampo Street in Manila late last month, in time for the start of the current term.

Designed by Ed Calma, design principal of Lor Calma Design Associates, Inc., the 14-story white building, which allows daylight and fresh air to stream in from all directions through its louvered glass windows, houses DLS-CSB's School of Design and Arts (SDA).

The architectural firm edged out six rivals in a contest for best building design that SDA launched sometime in 2000.

"As long as he stayed within the budget, we gave Ed the freedom to do whatever he wanted," says Bro. Edmundo Fernandez, FSC, DLS-CSB chair and interim president.

"He shared our belief that a building, apart from housing a series of classrooms, should be a tool for teaching its users valuable lessons on space and light. That alone made him head and shoulders above the rest."

The free rein Calma and his team got is also a reflection of DLS-CSB's emphasis on "personalized" education and the freedom SDA gives to every individual in his or her pursuit of academic excellence.

Great future

With a current student population of 2,003, SDA offers 12 bachelor degrees in such creative disciplines as animation, digital filmmaking, photography, multimedia arts, fashion design and production design, among others (www.dls-csb.edu.ph).

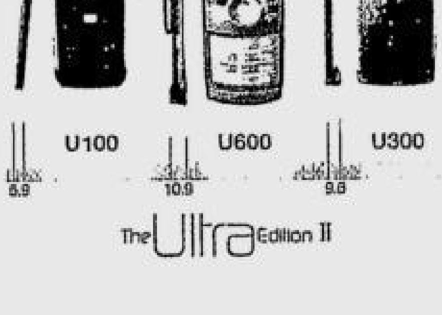
(Other schools under the DLS-CSB umbrella are still housed in the college's Taft campus. DLS-CSB has a little over 8,000 students.)

"There's a great, big future for the creative industry," says Fernandez. "And through this building and its seasoned faculty composed mostly of industry practitioners,

SHRINE/ E2

HUGE indoor amphitheater, among other "open" features, prods students to ask not only why, but why not.

millimeters matter



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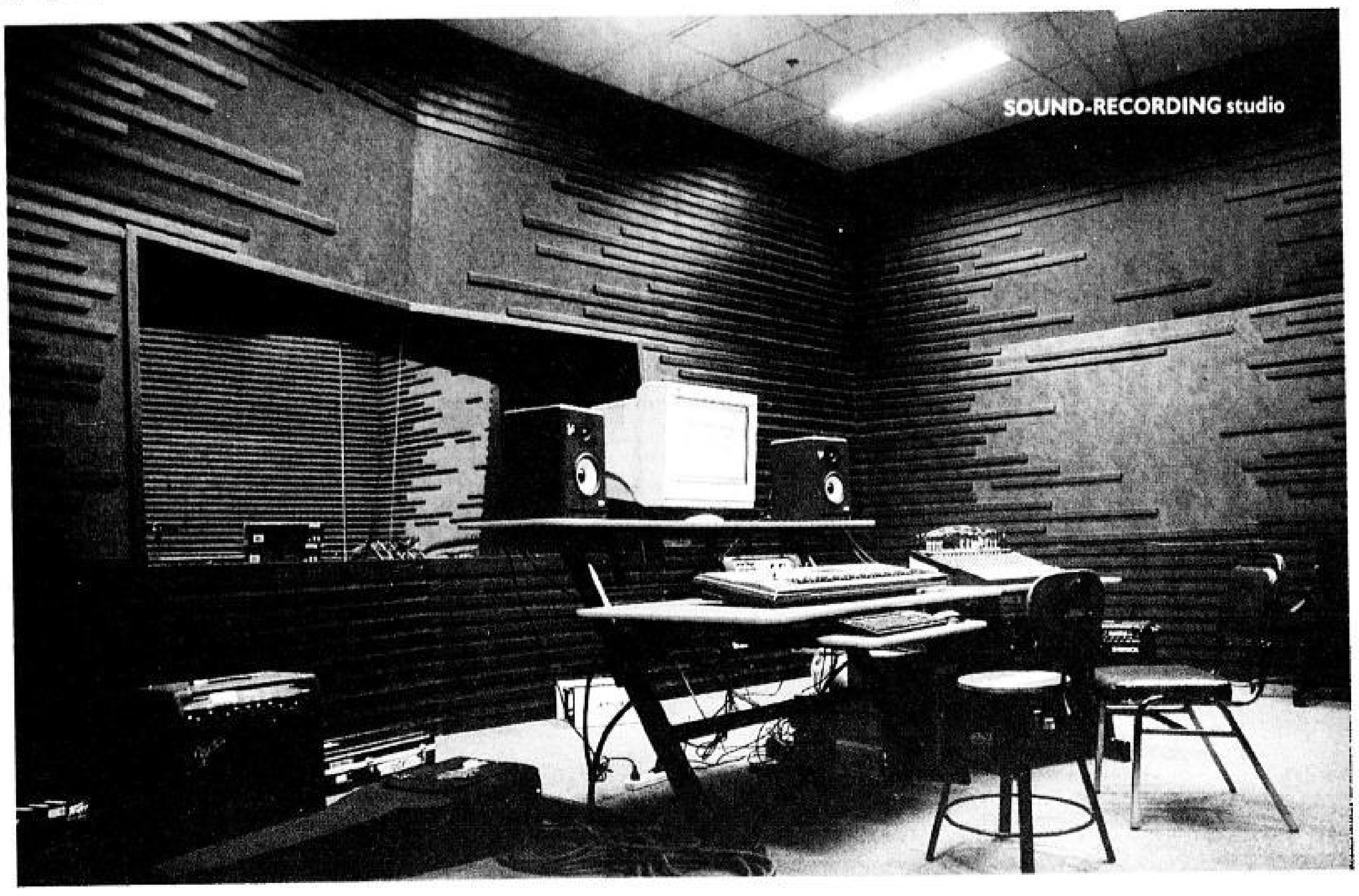

SOUND-RECORDING studio

ONE of SDA's music studios

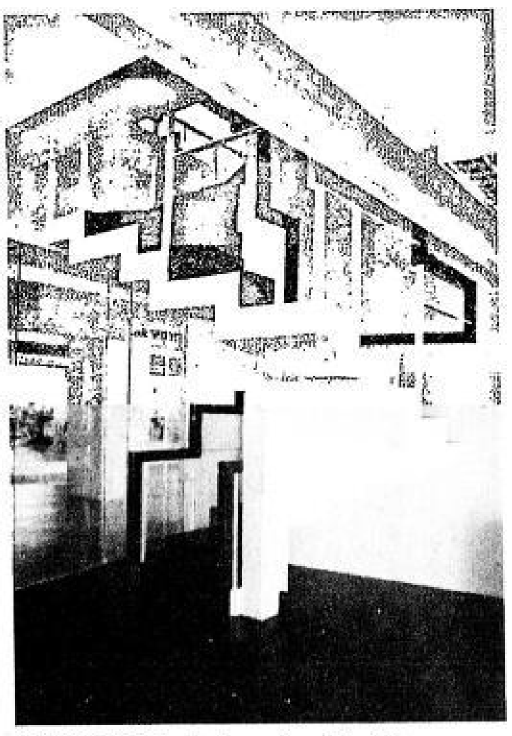
ONE-ON-ONE education in SDA's animation department

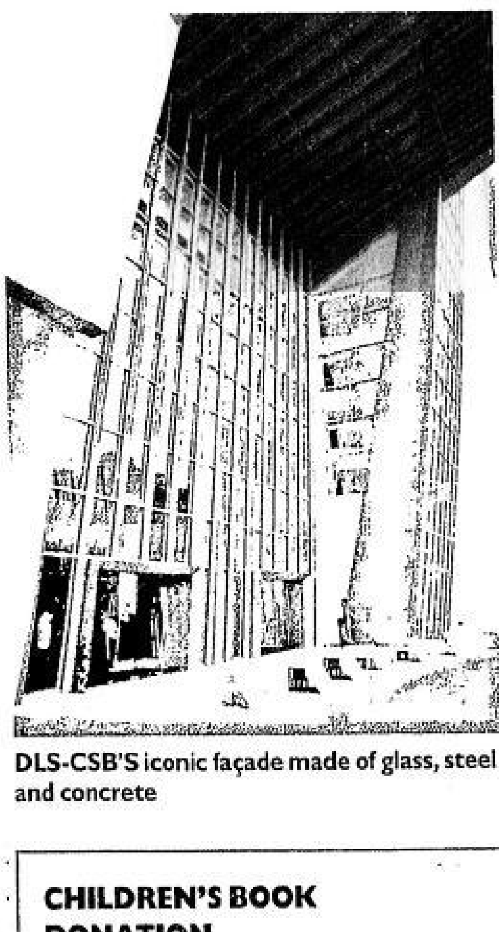
Shrine to cutting-edge creativity

From page E1

we want to make a statement as we provide students, both Filipinos and foreigners, with an ideal resource."

Dubbed as a "campus within a building," the structure sits on a 35,000-sqm, irregularly shaped lot and has a total floor area of 55,122 sqm. Due to its height and striking appearance, the building has easily become the newest landmark to rise on this side of the capital.


SCULPTURAL staircase leads to the president's office.


DLS-CSB'S iconic façade made of glass, steel and concrete

It boasts of such features as a museum of contemporary art and design, cinema, video production and sound-recording studios, post-production facilities, indoor amphitheater and 558-seat theater that sits on an iconic cantilevered section that juts out from the building's façade on the sixth floor.

Students with cars, and there are quite a number in DLS-CSB, can now heave a sigh of relief as the building's parking area (a perennial problem for generations of "La Sallistas" in the heart of crowded Manila) has ample room for 350 vehicles.

To ensure students' safety and security, SDA also invested in a number of measures such as ID-activated turnstiles in the lobby, an extensive sprinkler system and a network of closed-circuit cameras.

Certain sections of the building, particularly the theater and cinema, are still undergoing construction and will be finished by September. Like most of the building's special features, the cinema places a premium on both aesthetics and functionality via the latest acoustic materials imported from Australia.

Aside from investing in the latest computer programs for its animation classes, the school also has an extensive inventory of the latest digital cameras and filmmaking equipment, which students can use for free for their photography and filmmaking endeavors.

"I've noticed that certain pieces of equipment are at par with, if not better than, the ones being used in established media outlets," says media consultant Anjie Ureta, a graduate of De La Salle University-Taft.

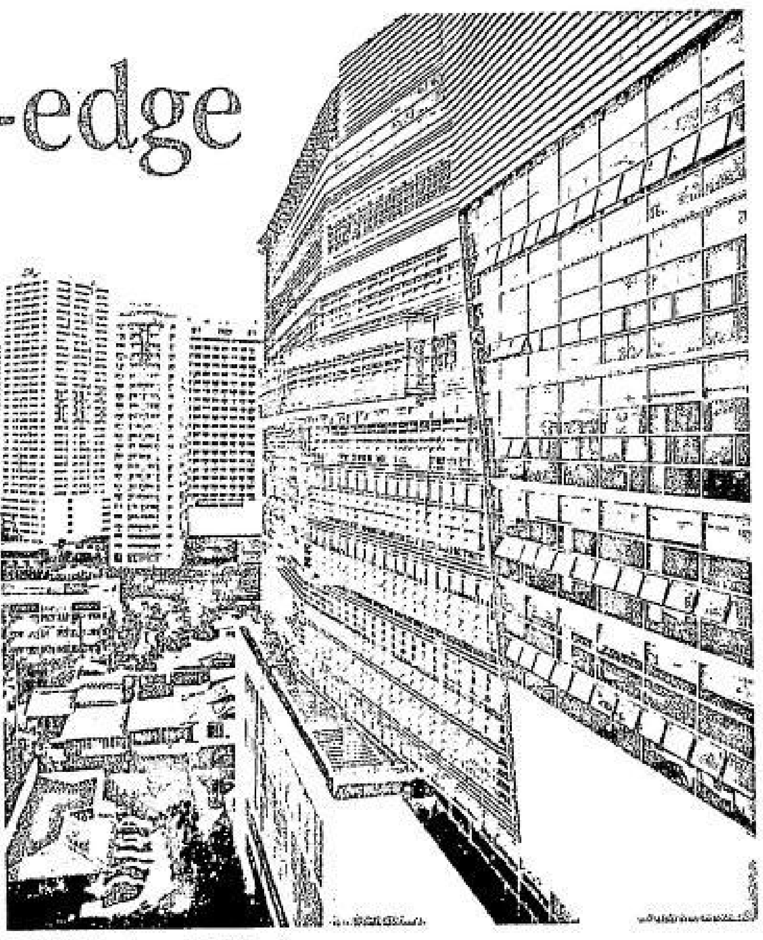
Openness, transparency

In keeping with the school's thrust to promote out-of-the box thinking among its young occupants, no two floors, classrooms, ceilings and even corridors (which, in SDA's book, are called public areas) are similar in layout and size. Even the way daylight is cast on a number of strategic areas inside the building differs depending on the time of day.

In fact, Calma allotted a great deal of space to public areas—which he considers part of the building's exterior—in an attempt, perhaps, to bolster openness and transparency, two recurring themes that characterize the building inside and out. Even entrances leading to the restrooms, to the initial shock of some ultra-conservative brothers, don't have doors!

Thanks to their legendary fear of open spaces, some Filipinos may deem the move to come up with expansive corridors as a pure and simple waste of space. To unconventional thinkers, however, nothing could be further from the truth.

"I heard that some parents are complaining that they'd be the ones to pay for unused spaces," says writer and former Ayala Museum director Sonia Ner, who has been commissioned by SDA to write a coffee-table book on the building. "But public areas are functional. And because of its uniqueness, the building itself prods students to ask not only why, but why not, which, to me, is more important."


A NEW landmark in Manila

BRO. Edmundo Fernandez, FSC

Admittedly, says Fernandez, who had to explain the project's merits and its seemingly huge price tag to certain members of the La Salle community, the building doesn't fall under the dictum of form following function.

"Open spaces affect the way a person thinks," he continues. "If you're going to look at it from the traditional perspective, then a lot of space is, indeed, wasted."

Apart from openness and transparency, the building is also noteworthy for its use of neutral shades such as white, black and gray. These colors are echoed in the school's minimalist European furniture pieces made of the finest wood, leather, metal and tempered glass.

Such neutral spaces, including the abundant use of tempered glass in lieu of walls to section off each classroom, serve a practical purpose. Like a giant gallery, they allow students' art pieces to stand out. The glass walls are, in fact, intended as 21st-century bulletin boards to display their works.

Environment-friendly

Not only is the building cutting-edge, it's also proving to be an environment-friendly structure. Since glass louvers allow the air to flow freely, the need for air-conditioning has been limited to SDA's offices and learning spaces, including the cafeteria.

It's too early to tell, but by eliminating the need for centralized air-conditioning and minimizing dependence on artificial lighting, Bro. Fernandez estimates that SDA's total electric bill will go down by 50 percent.

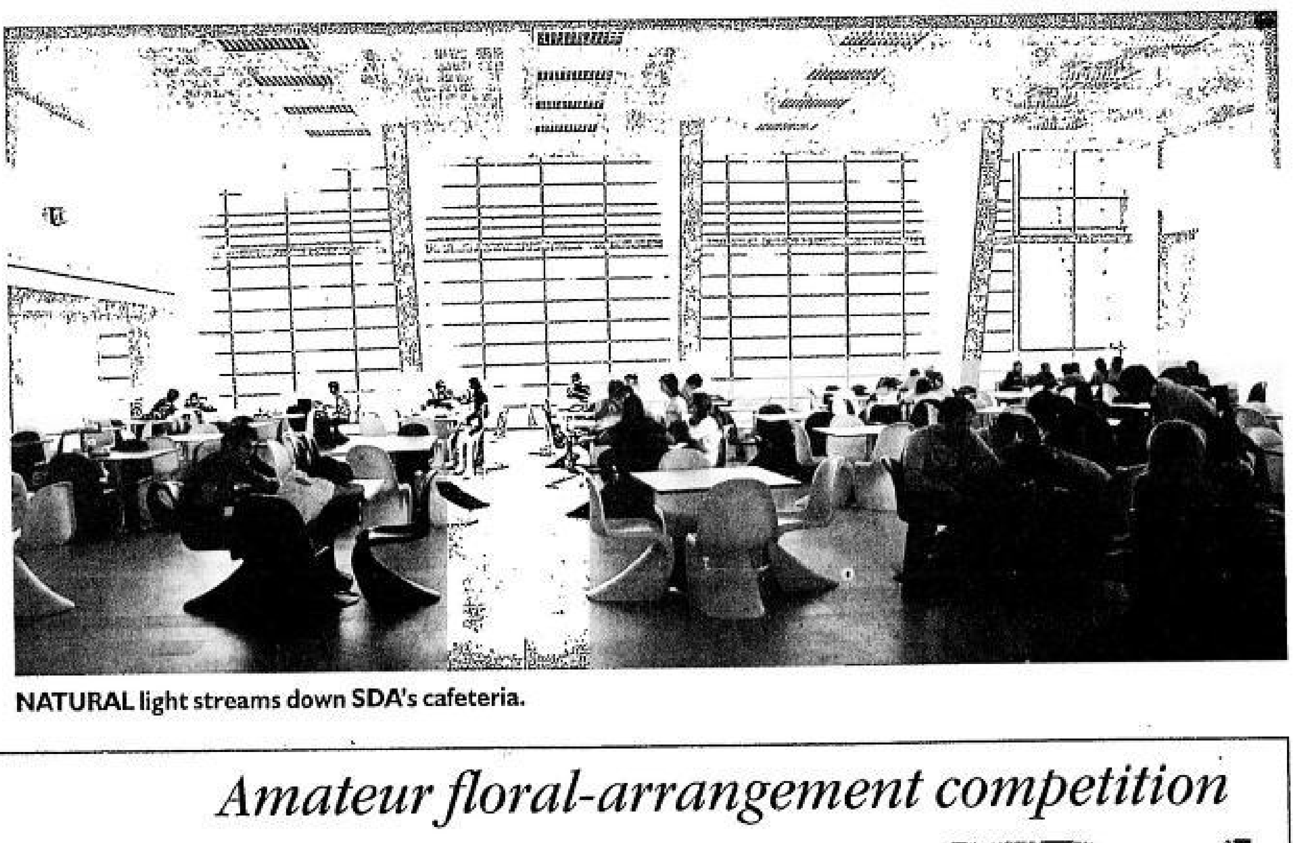
Of course, a building that lets the air and outdoor scenery in also allows a bit of rain to enter its premises. Aside from putting a substantial distance between glass louvers and the building's air-conditioned classrooms, Calma ringed the concrete floor near the windows with indentations designed to funnel rainwater to several drains.

A sewer treatment plant addresses the school's raw wastewater before it is released to the environment. The measure, including a fume system to filter any form of air pollutant, is simply in keeping with the school's environmental advocacy.

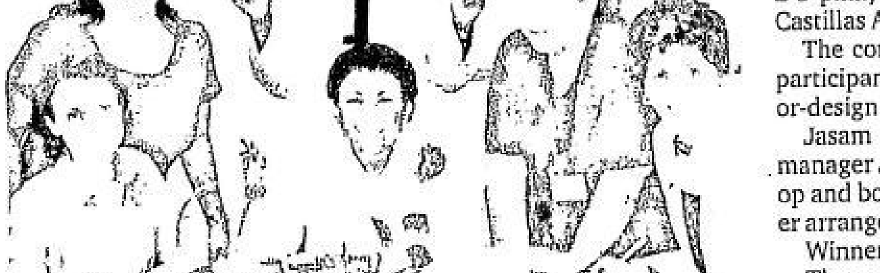
And finally, as a testament to its forward-thinking approach to education, SDA is the first school, if not the first building, in the Philippines to be equipped with 10-G technology.

Through the use of huge internal network cables, the technology allows students and faculty almost instantaneous access to SDA's intranet facilities, including video streaming and internal communication.

At DLS-CSB, art and technology do mix in a state-of-the-art environment designed to respond to the needs of a "right here, right now" generation weaned on the Internet, video games and various forms of instant gratification.


NATURAL light streams down SDA's cafeteria.

CHILDREN'S BOOK DONATION
A team of Pricewaterhouse Coopers executive assistants based in Los Angeles, California recently donated children's books to the Potatan Elementary School in Muntinlupa City, one of several charitable contribution projects they are undertaking. The group includes Linda Relunia, a University of the Philippines Masscom alumna who spearheaded the project, Dorothy Georgestone and Christine Lehman. Seated: Alyas Henderson, Nery Suchite and Sharon Schmidt.



Amateur floral-arrangement competition

JASAM FLORAL SUNDRIES, WITH THE DOS CASTILLAS Flower Market Association, will hold the Third Annual Dangwa Amateur Floral Arrangement Competition, 2-5 p.m., June 26, at the Dangwa Flower Market, Dos Castillas Avenue, Sampaloc, Manila.

The competition is open to all amateur floral artists, participants in flower-arrangement seminars and interior-design students.

Jasam Flower Sundries Inc. president and general manager John Ong says the yearly contest aims to develop and boost the artistic skills of young Filipinos in flower arrangement.

Winners will get cash prizes, trophies and medals.

The public is invited.

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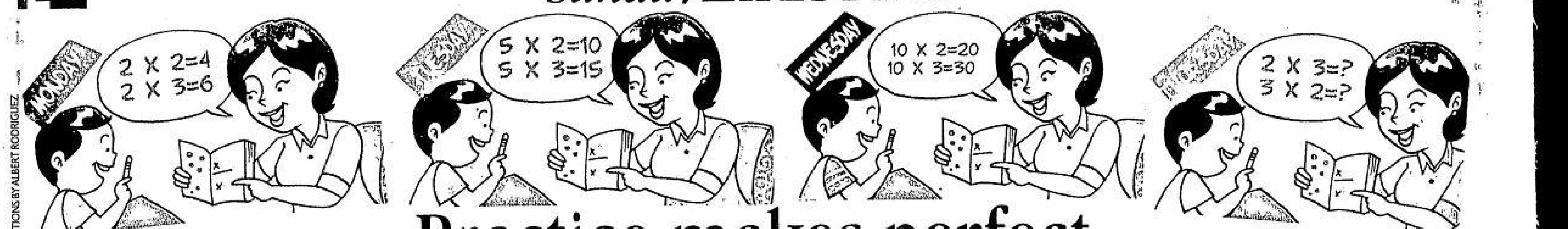


ILLUSTRATIONS BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Practice makes perfect

There is no royal road to math or, indeed, to any sort of worthwhile endeavor

By Queena N. Lee-Chua
Contributor

THE MOST FREQUENT QUERY I RECEIVE from readers is, "What is the secret to math success?" This question is actually as old as time, and the secret an ancient one.

Before the time of Christ, when Ptolemy ruled Greece, he commanded the royal mathematician Euclid: "Teach me geometry and, by the way, I want to learn it in two weeks."

Euclid, who was then writing the many volumes of his "Elements" (high-school juniors today study half of his first volume in class), bowed low. "I can teach you," he replied, "but there is no royal road to geometry."

The monarch was reportedly chastened by this and humbly undertook the difficult task of mastery day after day, with Euclid by his side. He started from the first page and, after more than a decade, worked his way up to the last. Ptolemy became a wise king, much loved by his people.

There is no royal road to math or, indeed, to any sort of worthwhile endeavor. Instant learning does not exist. Whether king, commoner, genius or underachiever, the secret to success is the same: practice.

Cramming doesn't work

Of course, most of us do not have decades to learn academic lessons, though math contestants and oratory debaters spend years honing their skills. But, even with everyday learning, we need to first understand, and then to review and remember what we understand.

If we do not understand something, we should ask help from our teachers, parents or peers. (Refer to my article "Three things teachers wish students knew," June 2). But understanding is not enough.

After getting another low score, a student complained, "Ma'am, I understand what you write on the board, and what we discuss in class. I don't know why I do badly in tests."

When I asked him if he completed the practice exercises, he shrugged. "But I understand everything! I know I can answer the problems."

Knowing is not the same as doing. Understanding what is happening in class is great but, without review and practice, these glimmers of comprehension remain only in short-term memory, and are then quickly lost. That is why cramming does not work.

Students say, "I studied fractions, but suddenly I had a mental block." Or, "I memorized the places and dates two hours before history class, but I forgot them during the test."

If we are lucky, we remember long enough to scribble the answers in a quiz, and forget them when the bell rings. If not, we flunk big-time.

But, for a long test, we have to start all over again, studying the same things as if for the first time, wasting time and effort. Or, worse, we just give up.

Exercise the brain

The road to learning is to understand the lessons, review the main points, and commit them to heart. It is said most of us use only 10 percent of our brains. Though this is debatable, the truth is our minds can definitely learn and store more knowledge.

Our brain consists mostly of nerve cells, but it can be likened to a muscle. To build muscles, bodybuilders hit the gym. When they stop exercising, muscles atrophy, disappearing altogether or, worse, turning to fat. Ever wonder why many retired football players become obese?

When we want to solve word problems easily, speak foreign languages fluently, or have history figures on hand, we need to exercise our brain by regular practice.

For instance, to learn multiplication by heart, a child can start by going through the times two table on the first day, then the times five table the next day, all the while reviewing the twos.

On the third day, he can proceed to the times 10 table, with brief recaps of twos and fives. By this time, he would have mastered the twos.

In the next week, he can do fours and nines, reviewing them for 15-30 minutes every day. After two weeks, he can go to the harder ones: sixes, sevens and eights.

If the child has not mastered multiplication when the next topic comes, then he should not neglect it. Allot 10 minutes each day to review multiplication again. Inevitably, he will know it by heart and, best of all, he will not forget it.

By the way, keep in mind that multiplication is commutative. This means that if the child knows what 4 times 9 is, then he already knows the product of 9 and 4.

Brain exercises are not limited to children. Recent research from the United States and Japan revealed that senior citizens who engaged in crosswords, Scrabble or Sudoku daily could delay the onset of Alzheimer's by several years. When our brains are stimulated by challenges, new neural connections grow.

Fitness enthusiasts know that to reap maximum benefit they need to add sets, reps or weights. Old routines become stale. Instead of buying yet another easy-to-read bestseller, why not challenge ourselves with a book from history, business, science?

Learn from sports

In his heyday, Boston Celtics legend Larry Bird attributed his stellar three-point-shot performance to constant practice. Every day, he would shoot more than 200 baskets, from different angles in the court.

Cancer survivor and champion cyclist Lance Armstrong practiced every day, without fail. Once, in the midst of a storm, while his opponents stayed home, he climbed up a steep hill. When he was back at the bottom, he turned to his trainer and muttered, "Let's do it again."

By force of habit, both Bird and Armstrong went about their games unconsciously. They were known for intensely focusing on the tasks at hand and delivering superb performances even in enemy territory.

In the closing seconds of a championship game in the LA Forum, with opponents and the crowd trying their best to distract him, Bird would coolly sink all his free throws.

In hostile Paris, even when he was harassed by numerous random dope checks, Armstrong remained master of all the hills, and winner of Tour de France seven consecutive times.

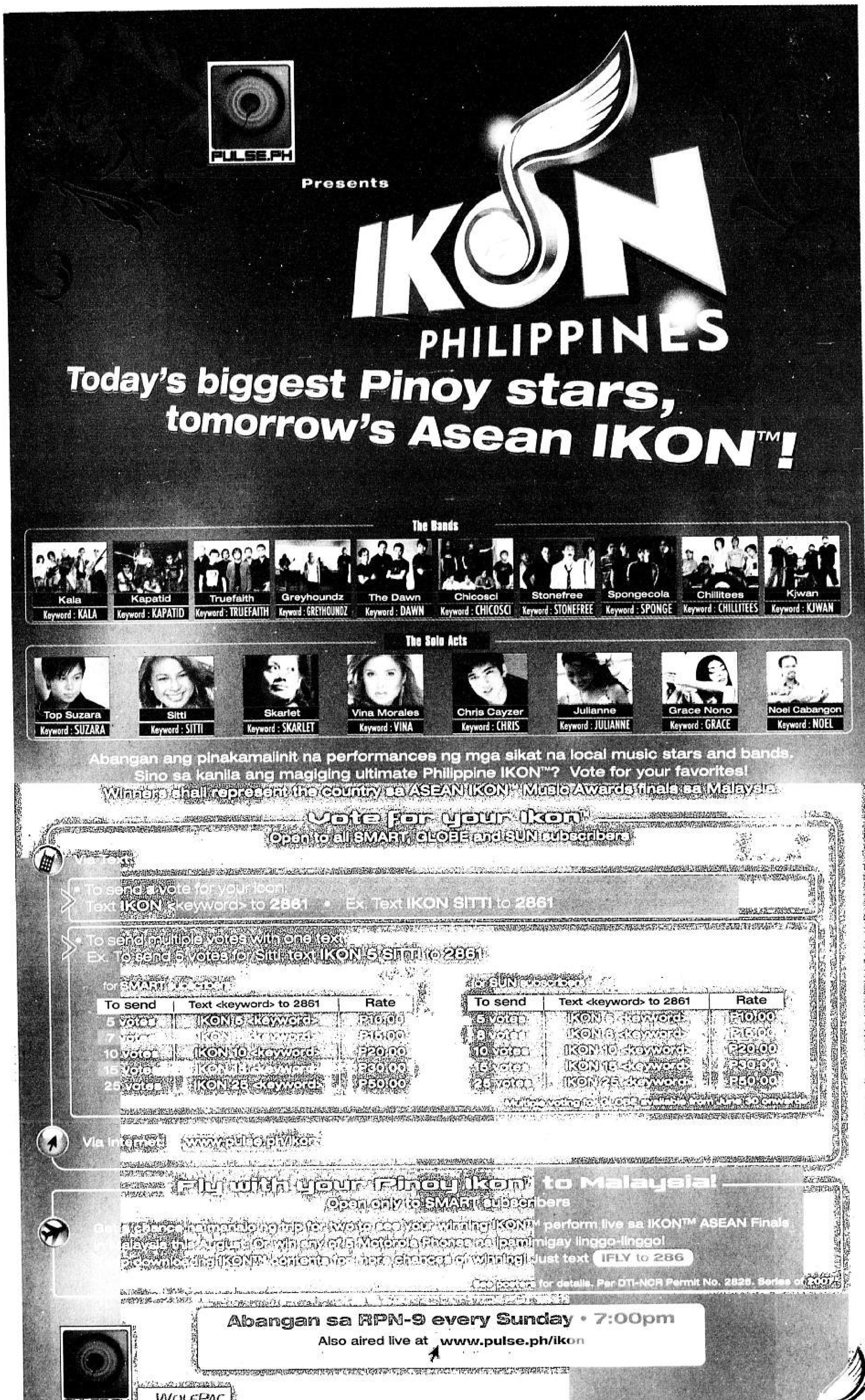
True, not all of us aim to be world-class athletes. But the dictum "practice makes perfect" holds not only for sport, but also for music, drama, and yes—academics.

Once I asked one of my students, a star player in our university varsity team, how much he practiced to prepare for the games of the University Athletic Association of the Philippines. "At least three hours daily," he replied.

How much time did he spend on math? A sheepish grin. If he spent even just half the time he spent on practice to his assignments, I reminded him, he could pass the course.

He took the advice to heart and studied for an hour every day. Not only did he pass, he also started enjoying math, getting the highest grade of his life.

Queena N. Lee-Chua is professor of math and psychology at the Ateneo de Manila University. Contact her at blessbook@yahoo.com.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Spongecola	Keyword : SPONGE
Chillitees	Keyword : CHILLITEES
Kjwan	Keyword : KJWAN

The Solo Acts

Top Suzara	Keyword : SUZARA
Sitti	Keyword : SITTI
Skarlet	Keyword : SKARLET
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Guiuan: Almost famous

For a town so obscure, Guiuan island in Eastern Samar has had a surprisingly colorful history

Text and photos by Patrick Larraga
Contributor

THE QUIET TOWN OF Guiuan, in the province of Eastern Samar sits on the edge of the vast Pacific. On this remote sliver of land, waves hit landfall on their long journey from thousands of miles away. And through the years, the ocean currents have brought conquistadores, warring soldiers, political refugees and even a saint.

For a town so obscure, Guiuan has had a surprisingly colorful history.

The island of Homonhon, about an hour away by banca from the town, is where Ferdinand Magellan first landed on Philippine soil more than four centuries ago in the first recorded trans-Pacific voyage. Magellan and his scurvy-stricken men were said to have been welcomed to Homonhon by a gold-bedecked *datu* called Garas-garas.

So impressed were they with the hospitality (as well as the gold on the person of the host *datu*) that he named the place Nueva Providencia, proceeding to claim Homonhon and the rest of the islands for the Spanish crown.

The freshwater springs from where Magellan and his men drank are still there, but these days the island has a new tenant. A controversial mining company that calls itself Heritage has pulled up stakes and has made Homonhon its base.

Fortified town

Further into the Spanish occupation, Guiuan is said to have developed into the third largest fortified town in the Philippines, after Manila and Zamboanga, in the 1600s. The fortifications may have been built to support the town's role as an emergency stop for ships in their journey across the Pacific from Manila to Acapulco during the years of the Galleon trade.

A considerable Chinese community, lured by the prospect of commerce, established residence in the town as early as the 1700s.

From this period of relative prosperity came one of the most beautiful churches in the Visayas. Built by the Jesuits in the 18th century, the church, dedicated to the Purisima Concepcion, boasts the solid and stern demeanor of fortress churches in the coastal towns of the Visayas.

The austere beauty of the façade, however, belies the effusiveness of the art inside. In its side altars and baptistery, the Guiuan Church offers unique shell ornamentation found nowhere else in the country. The National Commission for Culture and the Arts, in a book to document the art form, counted 106 species of shells as having been embedded in an "admixture" of lime and cement to frame and adorn niches and walls within the structure.

Declared a national cultural treasure by the National Museum, the Guiuan Church is refreshing for having retained much of its original structure and decor, resisting what one writer has called "the over-beautification" of old structures, in the pursuit of which concrete porticos are grafted onto coral-stone façades and tiles are replaced with crazy-cut marble.

GUIUAN/ F4

COVETED TREASURE. Saint Peter stands guard at the main doors of Guiuan Church.

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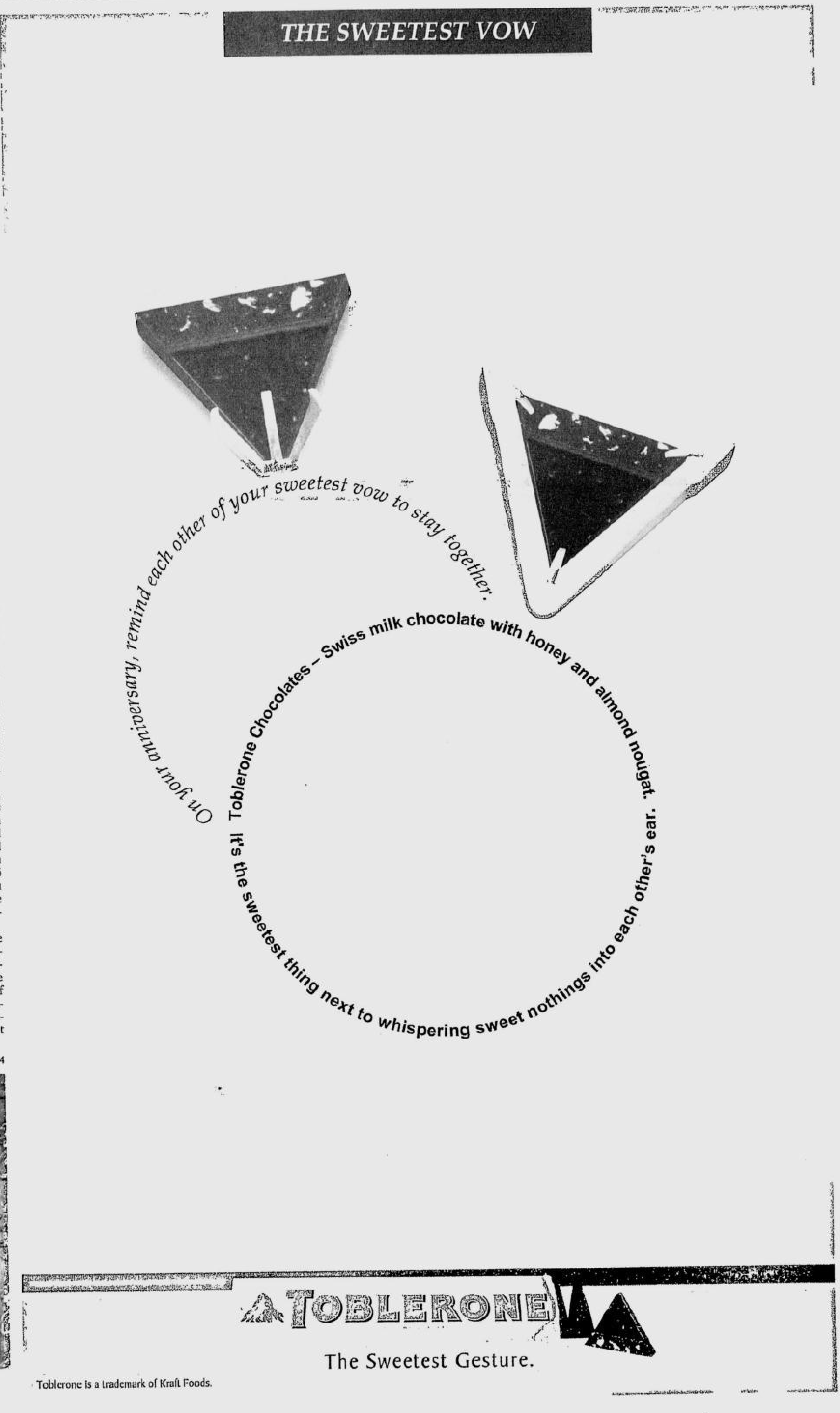

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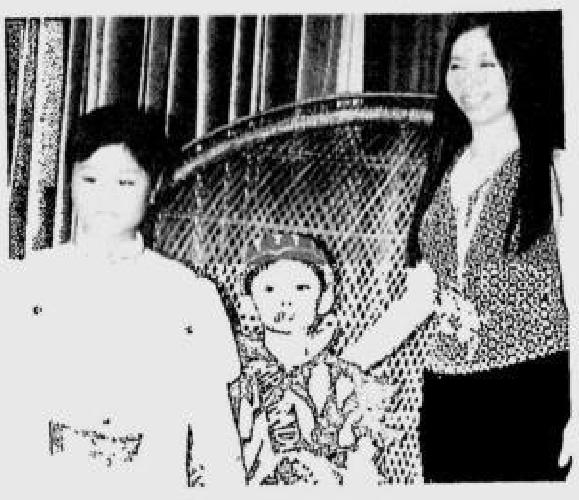
REINA del Santacruzan Pamela Jean Veloco Yamaoka crowned by lawyer Carlo Martinez (left) and Chinggay de Veyra Utzurrum

REINA de las Flores Angeli Dionie Gomez with her 2006 predecessor Salve Musni and Dr. Gerardo Aquino of the Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center

AMID floral splendor, Reina de los Angeles Isabella Marie Pintor with her predecessor in 2006 Fatima Johanna Patalinghug, and Joe Recio (right)


EMPERADOR Constantino 2007 Frangelico Neil Batoy is crowned by his predecessor Peter Gabriel Muana (left) and Cebu City Councilor Joy Pesquera.

CEBU CEBU
Jaime Picornell

A Santacruzan to remember

AS HAPPENS EVERY YEAR, WITH SUMMER gone, Cebu celebrates June as Business Month. Some department stores are even ready to play Christmas carols in July.

But the fragrance of May will long linger, as does the memory of a splendid Santacruzan staged by the Quota International of Cebu.

The group has been at it for two decades now, raising funds for various daycare centers, a high school for poor hearing-impaired children, salaries for teachers and other personnel, plus charity projects.

Incumbent president Cristina Corominas didn't reveal the amount raised this year but she said it's impressive and has surpassed those of previous years.

"Remember, we're building a new daycare center," she announced, adding that the club is immensely grateful to Rep. Raul del Mar (Cebu City-North District) for his support.

He was present on this occasion to crown the Reina Emperatriz, Elisa Estenzo Torres, a dear friend of Tina who is based in Bangkok and came just for this. Assisting Del Mar was Gionna Jimenez Cabrera, the statuesque Miss Philippines-Universe 2005.

Lisa was much applauded by the throngs that lined the procession route, from the chapel of the San Carlos Seminary to the Grand Convention Center. Her entrance into the crowded ballroom for the coronation was a euphoric experience.

Coronations galore

Bunny Pages emceed the program which started with a presentation by the children of the First High School for the Hearing Impaired. Aside from Lisa's, there were other coronations that evening. Reina Elena Mytha Canoy was crowned by provincial board member Victoria Corominas, while Reina del Santacruzan Pamela Yamaoka was crowned by Chinggay Utzurrum, assisted by lawyer Carlo Martinez.

Emperador Constantino Frangelico Batoy was crowned by Cebu City Councilor Joy Pesquera and his predecessor Peter Muana. Ten gorgeously garbed *principes* formed his court: Noah Weigel, Ryan Ceniza, Julius Caesar Eboa II, Lance Lerin, Angelo Fajardo, Benjamin Chan, Yniego Calienta, Manuel Sy, Aladin Arranquez IV and Martin del Rosario.

Reina de las Flores Angeli Gomez was crowned by predecessor Salve Musni and Dr. Gerardo Aquino; in her court of *sagalas* were Mina Ohdate, Ma. Filimena Empleo, Elaine Gomez, Alyssa Marielle Aco, and Kathryana Gomez.

Cute little Isabella Marie Pintor was Reina de los Angeles, crowned by her predecessor Fatima Patalinghug and popular society writer Joe Recio. Just as cute were her 10 *sagalas*: Katrina Ligutom, Victoria Guillen, Stacey Tiu, Anna Uy, Khaila Gomez, Gillian Lu, Kathleen Sanchez, Blanca Sy, Alyanna Alvez and Francesa Rafanan.

REINA Emperatriz Lisa Estenzo Torres is crowned by Cebu North Rep. Raul del Mar (left) and Gionna Jimenez Cabrera, Miss Philippines-Universe 2005.

REINA Elena 2007 Mytha Ann Canoy with her predecessor, provincial board member Victoria Corominas

The evening did not end with the coronation pageant. Linda Ramirez had brought the award-winning Dancesports Team Cebu to liven things up. Reina de los Angeles Isabella and Emperador Frangelico with their courts performed a kiddie Rigodon that wowed everyone. Reina de las Flores and her ladies, escorted by dashing young men, performed the Cebuano folk dance "Cariñosa."

Holding court at her special table was Lydia Ibañez, who founded the Cebu Quota back in 1977 and has closely followed all its events the past 25 years. Most of the participants in the yearly Santacruzans are children from the St. Benedict Childhood Education Center of which she is the principal.

Socorro Codilla, the school's registrar, and honorary Quotarian, has already started planning next year's Santacruzan. A date has been set: May 4, 2008, same time and place.

Elections have just taken place as to who would lead Cebu Quota in the coming months. Maria Luisa Veloso has been elected president, along with Loreta Calderon and Connie Garcia (Santacruzan 2007 chairperson), who are vice presidents for internal and external affairs, respectively.

Other officers are secretaries Evelyn Ramirez and Gemma Evardo, treasurer Linda Rana, auditor Marcia Godinez, and press relations officer Pinky Shan. In the board of directors are Louella Abellana, Dulce Gantuangco, Felisa Gimarino, Gasperlita Julia, Dinah Lozada, Lourdes Manigos and immediate past president Tina Corominas.

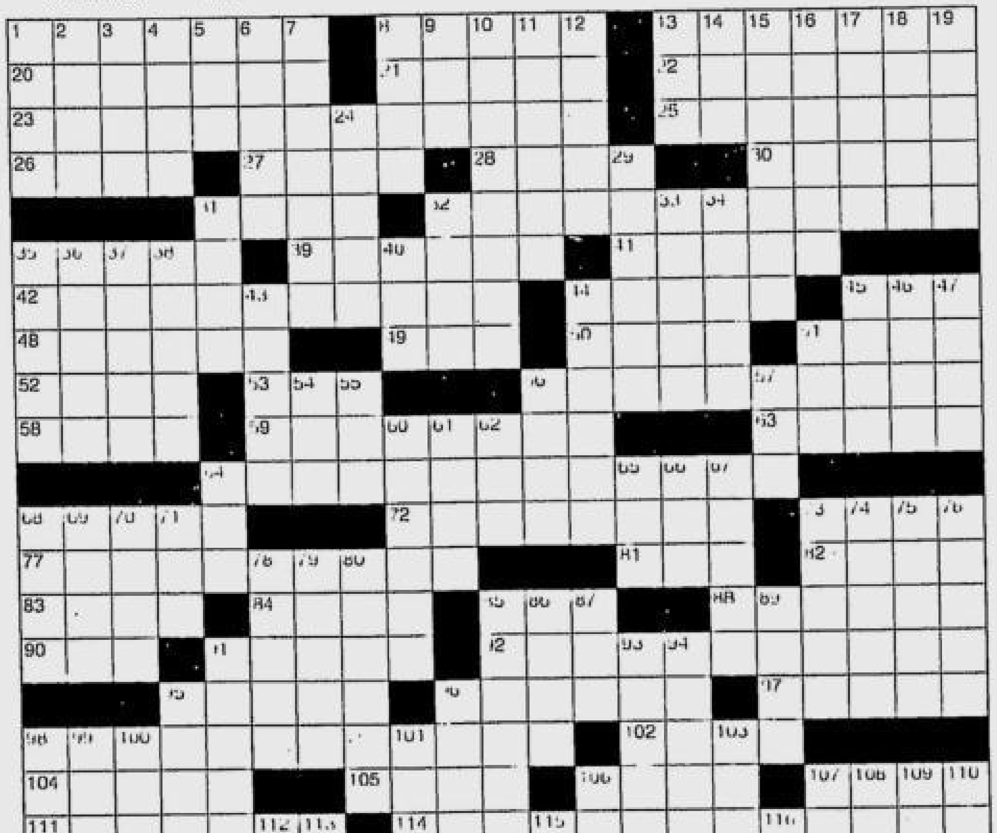
> The splendid event was staged by the Quota International of Cebu

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo GIVEN PAIRS

ACROSS
1 Capital of Nicaragua
8 Former capital of Nigeria
13 Trades
20 Food
21 First Hebrew letter
22 Ohio college town
23 Best Actress of 1965
25 Actor Dom
26 Prayer end
27 — Bator (Mongolian capital)
28 Soft drink
30 Bewildered
31 British WWII gun
32 "Devil Woman" singer
35 "Wicked Game" singer Chris
39 Steering system part
41 Destinies
42 "A Thousand Clowns" Tony winner
44 Unit of capacitance
45 Ring arbiter
48 Bela of horror films
49 Suffix of nationalities
50 Cambodia's basic currency unit
51 Grow dim
52 Leave — (reward good service)
53 Reuben bread
56 "Seinfeld" co-creator
58 Run across
59 Use sparingly
63 Leaves the stage
64 "Careless Whisper" singer
68 Heroic firefighter Red
72 Designate differently
73 Clumsy boor
77 Storied bank robber
81 Moreover
82 Skillful
83 Choir range
84 A woodwind
85 "— gratia" ("by the grace of God")
88 Boundaries
90 Brazilian city, briefly
91 North Pole Mrs.
92 "Green Acres" star
95 Composer Gustav
96 Cooping up
97 Op-ed piece
98 Blondie frontwoman
102 Pleat
104 Actor Koteas
105 Untidy type
106 Sci-fi princess
107 Moore of "Striptease"
111 Comic Coca
114 What the people featured in this puzzle could be said to have
117 Hebrews
118 Business in a 2002 scandal
119 1993 Tom Cruise film
120 Maple fluid
121 Zellweger of Hollywood
122 Reconciles

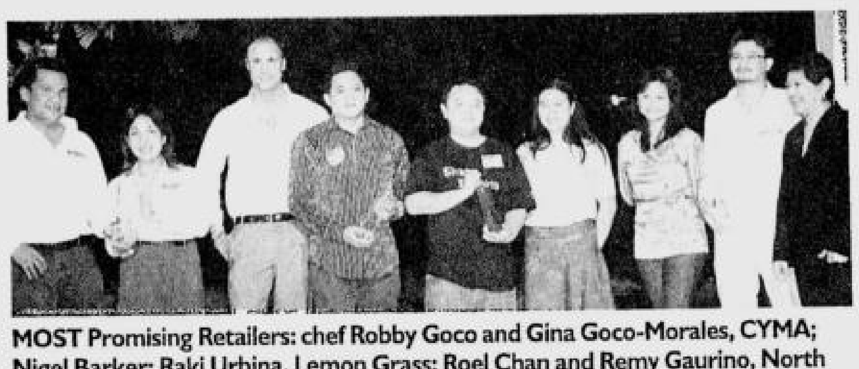
DOWN
1 Goya's "The Naked —"
2 One reuning
3 Aswan river
4 See 87-Down
5 Whillikers or whiz lead-in
6 Not broken
7 Sports pro
8 Been in bed
9 Father-and-son Unsers
10 Draw nigh
11 Sedative substance
12 Ledge
13 Physique, slangily
14 Jurist Fortas
15 Tightened, as boots
16 Axioms
17 "Clueless" actress Donovan
18 Stair part
19 Golfer Sam
24 Took to jail
29 Liaison
31 "The -- the limit"
32 NFLer Carter
33 Less ordinary
34 Turin locale
35 Sunni's faith
36 Fry quickly
37 Everhart or Dickinson
38 Take as one's own
40 Compass abbr.
43 Funeral song
44 Pre-euro money
45 Sitarist Shankar
46 Redact
47 G-men, e.g.
51 Send via a phone line
54 "— -hoo!" ("Hey!")
55 Bard's "always"
56 Ms. Lane
57 Marina — Rey
60 Harmonizes
61 Spots
62 Singer Sumac of Peru
64 College sr.'s test
65 Thwack
66 Back in time
67 -- Gay (war plane)
68 Barely open
69 Hero shop
70 About
71 The same: Prefix
73 Baby sheep
74 Play awards
75 Prefix with sound
76 Irritable
78 La — (San Diego resort area)
79 Embarrass
80 Kissers
85 Home to Ford Motor Company
86 Irritable
87 With 4-Down, Ugandan despot
89 Cole Porter's "Where Is the Life That Late —?"
91 Girdles' cousins
93 Suggest
94 Vain sorts
95 Submarine sandwich
96 -- Plaza (hotel chain)
98 Certain believer in God
99 Bugs Bunny bugger Fudd
100 Ecological community
101 Adjust
103 Shop machine
106 Queue
107 Loony
108 Jannings of "Waxworks"
109 Nothing more than
110 Dogmas
112 Org. for teachers
113 Seer's power
115 Nemesis
116 Fish catcher



answer on page C4

MARKETING Excellence Awardees: Firma for Greenbelt and Glorietta, Rustan's for Alabang Town Center and The Maze for Ayala Center Cebu. From left, Chito Vijandre and Ricky Toledo of Firma; Ayala's Cathy Bengzon, Myra Regner, and Sandy Espinosa; Hilda Amante, Ana Gonzalez and Nena Tantoco of Rustan's; Johnny Angot of The Maze; and Ayala's Maricris Bernardino

Retailers get feted and awarded


MOST Promising Retailers: chef Robby Goco and Gina Goco-Morales, CYMA; Nigel Barker; Raki Urbina, Lemon Grass; Roel Chan and Remy Gaurino, North Face; Abba Nappa and Geronimo Begre, All Flip Flops; Ayala's Rowena Tomeldan

HALL of Fame awardee, Bench, for Glorietta and Greenbelt stores: (from left) Jim Ayala, president of Ayala Land and head of Ayala Malls Group; Ben Chan and Bryan Lim of Bench; and Fernando Zobel de Ayala, chair, Ayala Land

AYALA MALLS HELD RECENTLY ITS 3rd Ayala Merchants' Forum, a gathering of Philippine retailers. Theme was "Creativity Unleashed."

In his remarks, Ayala Land president Jim Ayala challenged merchants to become innovative in catering to the needs of consumers.

International model and photographer Nigel Barker of the hit TV series "America's Next Top Model" said campaigns, like clothes, should be properly focused as to appeal to the consumers.

Australian architect Phil Schoutrop talked about trends in store design and visual merchandising.

Advertising man Melvin Mangada said advertising should respond well to the peculiarities of the Filipino market.

Ayala Malls VP Rowena Tomeldan talked about how Ayala Malls had always sought to improve mall development and management.

The Merchant Rewards were given out to Ayala's merchant partners "whose innovativeness and marketing and business leadership inspired the industry."

For visual merchandising excellence, the winners were Atelier M, Paul Smith, Firma and Zara of Glorietta and Greenbelt, Kids of Bayo, Nine West, Designer Blooms and Olympic Village of Alabang Town Center and Bisaya Ispisyal, Lacoste (apparel), Just Jewels and Rustan's of Ayala Center Cebu.

For marketing excellence values, the awards went to Fila (Glorietta and Greenbelt) and CPK (Alabang Town Center). Awarded as Marketing Partners were Bench, Lucerne and Segafredo for Glorietta and Greenbelt; TGIF, Italianni's and Rustan's for Alabang Town Center; and Mother's Fried Chicken, The Maze and Collezione for Ayala Center Cebu.

Dickie Soriano of BCD Pinpoint talked about effective brand marketing and advertising.

That night, the 9th Merchant Rewards were held at Greenbelt 3 Park.

Big winners were Firma (Greenbelt), Kids of Bayo (Alabang Town Center), and Lacoste apparel (Ayala Center Cebu) which won Overall Excellence in Visual Merchandising.

The Visual Merchandising Hall of Fame Awards went to Carbon, Louis Vuitton, and Rustan's (Glorietta, Greenbelt) and Loalde (Ayala Center Cebu).

For Marketing Excellence, winners were Firma (Glorietta and Greenbelt), Rustan's (Alabang Town Center) and The Maze (Ayala Center Cebu).

Most Promising Retailers were Cyma and North Face (Glorietta and Greenbelt), All Flip Flops (Alabang Town Center) and Lemon Grass (Ayala Center Cebu).

Levi's of Ayala Center Cebu was overall Hall of Fame winner.

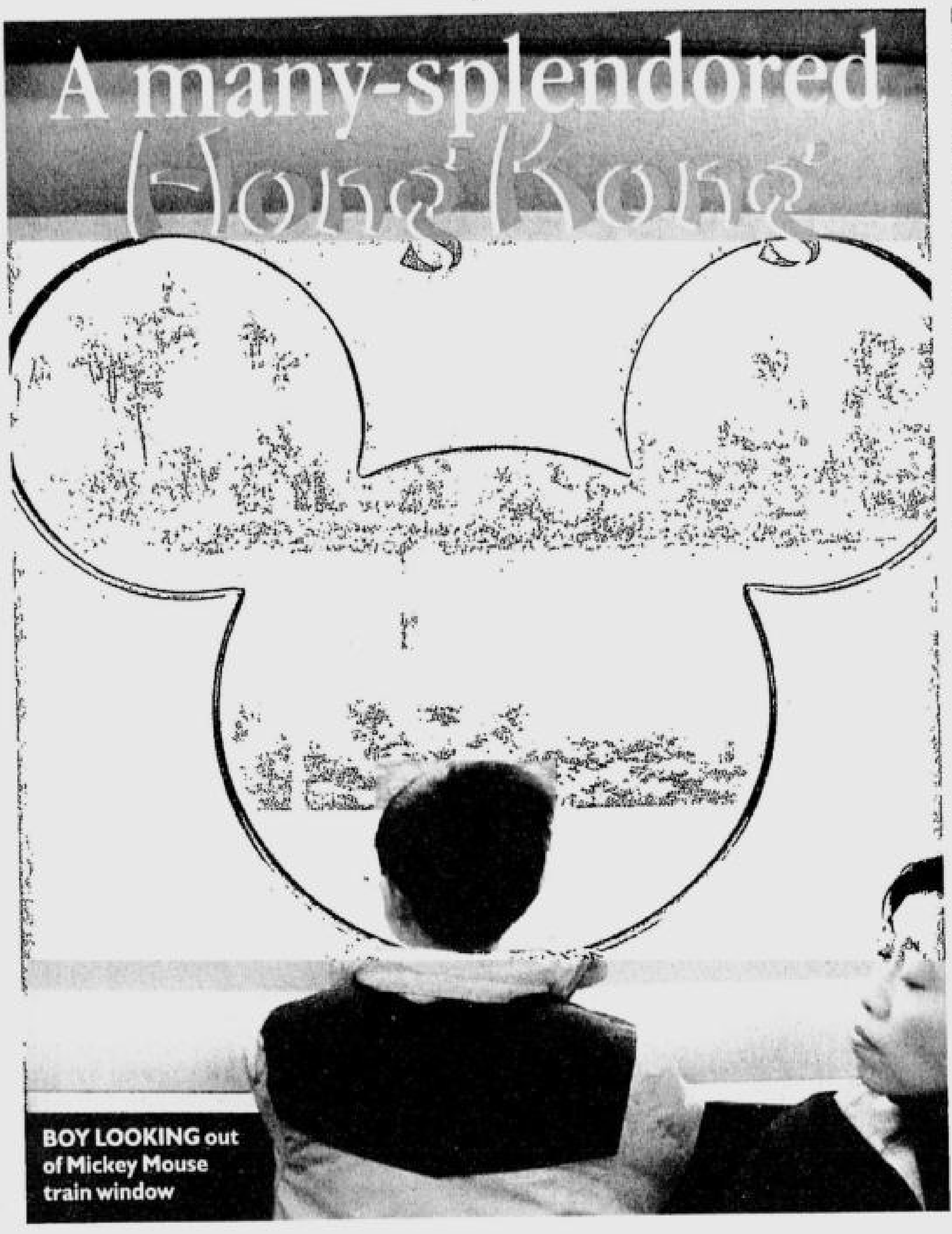
It won the Store Operations Excellence Award in 2004, 2005 and 2006.

Also winning the Hall of Fame award was Kamiseta of Alabang Town Center. It garnered the Grand Store of the Year award in 2004.

Another Hall of Fame winner was Bench of Glorietta/Greenbelt. Bench had won before the Marketing Excellence and Grand Store of the Year awards.

Retail giants in attendance were Ben Chan, Anton Huang, Nena Tantoco, Elizabeth Quiambao, Raul and Joanna Francisco, Ricky Toledo and Chito Vijandre, Miguel Celdran, Gunn Roque, Alan Vianzon, Carlo Orosa, Tina Henson Vitug, and José Miguel Ongsiako.

A many-splendored Hong Kong



BOY LOOKING out of Mickey Mouse train window

By Elizabeth Lolarga
Photos by Katha Mayumi L. Fernandez
Contributors

FINDING MYSELF IN CAFÉ LANDMARK at The Landmark on Queen's Road, Hong Kong Island, I scribble in my notebook about how jubilant I am to come face to face with Salvador Dali sculptures cast in bronze.

The multi-site Dali exhibition is a project of Opera Gallery that carries works by the masters like Renoir, Picasso and Chagall.

I've been dreaming about finally seeing a real Fernando Botero painting after leafing through Where magazine, which I find in our hotel room and which carries an ad of the gallery.

The doors of the gallery open at 11:30 a.m., and the first thing we come face to face with is a floor-to-ceiling painting by Marc Chagall. I want to plop myself down on the floor and just gaze dreamily at the composition. It is vintage Chagall with gravity-defying objects or people floating in the air.

I move on to a late '50s Picasso, examine the painting's brushstrokes and suddenly feel confident about my own. The Botero with a red round mark on the title card to indicate it is sold is of a mountain of a woman (not talking of myself here!) standing at the foot of a bed.

"Standing Woman at a Bedroom," painted in 2004, is, like the Picasso, empowering for the viewer. It seems to raise a toast to physical ripeness. So long, Kate Moss!

By this time we are bundled to fend off the spring chill. We mistakenly pack thin cotton summer clothes thinking that the weather will be humid. But we are greeted by a strong blast of cold air upon our arrival.

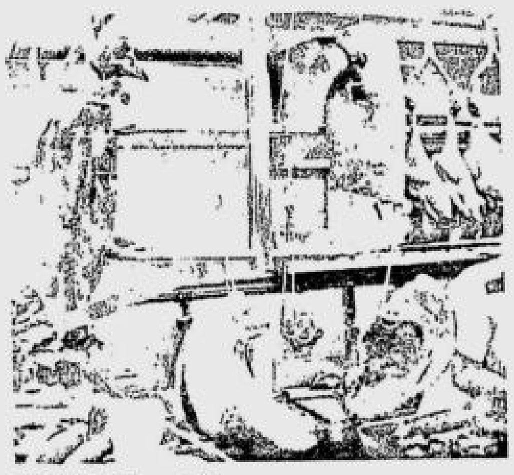
The convenient thing about hotels in Hong Kong is they are linked to malls sideways or underground. We head for the second store that sells thick sweatshirts (the first carries unaffordable but beautiful-to-touch cashmere).

Feeling like a native

Our youngest daughter Ida, ever the fashionista, settles for a cream quilted jacket with a collar of fake fur, explaining, "I want to be one with the Hongkongites."

While her father Rolly and I take a stroll on Queen's Road, poking around the shops till we find a quaint bookstore staffed by Filipinos and get 50-percent discounts on photography books, Ida, her sister Kimi and our other traveling companions head for Disneyland.

They later regale us with nearly a hundred photos on the digicam of their adventure. There's Kimi posing with Stitch, Ida arm and arm with Chip and Dale, Niko in Tarzan's hut, Trisha waving with Pluto by her side, the souvenir shops with the cuddly stuffed toys, the castle all lit up at night, the interiors of the Mickey train and so on.



"AHHHNG sarap!"

COUPLE waiting for subway train

Ida tells me, when she has sad thoughts, she only has to call back recent memories of Disneyland and the sadness evaporates quickly. How much of a baby my 19-year-old child still is.

While the two girls explore Mongkok for bargains, Rolly and I spend the better part of a day at the Hong Kong Museum of Art, moving slowly, then at a faster pace from gallery to gallery until we are overcome with hypoglycemia, and we seek quick nourishment at Café Muse.

I open my notebook and search for the quote from one of the featured artists at the museum, Lin Fengmian, and think of my friend Toottee Pacis in far Baguio where she paints flowers and tends a garden: "To paint flowers well, there is no harm, things permitting, in trying your hand at planting some yourself. Painters of flowers should love them more than anybody else. It is only then that one can paint flowers with feelings and paint them well."

On our last day, my feet aching from too much walking, I ask to be left at the hotel's Pacific Coffee with its glass walls facing Canton Road. I have cup after cup of hot tea (China Mist leaves) with two slices of lemon every time. Earlier we have a hearty lunch of Pad Thai noodles sprinkled with bits of scrambled eggs and ground peanuts and vegetable tempura at a nearby mall, Harbour City.

There we find a branch of Page One where Rolly goes from book shelf to book shelf, looking for something that will catch his fancy until I urge him to settle for a 2002 edition of "Fernando Botero: Paintings and Drawings."

If you like it, get it

It is the only copy left so I tell him not to let go of it. It is a lesson from my sister-in-law, Chingbee Fernandez, who says if you find something in Hong Kong that you truly like, better get it. If you think you can still come back for it, chances are it isn't there anymore.

FLAMINGOS in Kowloon Park

It is almost a point of irritation that everything works efficiently in the autonomous region, from the subway trains to vehicular traffic

Rolly does some quick mental calculation. He is pleased that converted to Philippine pesos, the art book will amount to less than P2,000.

Meantime, I splurge on single copies of Frances Mayes' "Bella Tuscany" and Marlena de Blasi's "A Thousand Days in Tuscany." I grab Irene Nemirovsky's "Suite Francaise" and wish I am back in my Baguio bed, pillows piled beneath my head, my legs under a warm comforter, a steady rain outside, the bedside lamp burning and my eyes not yet strained from turning pages.

I spot a new book, "The Audrey Hepburn Treasures," and my mouth waters. The thick book contains Hepburn's correspondence—facsimiles of her handwritten and typewritten notes.

Of course, I covet it like anything else about her, but it costs HK$400-plus (about P2,400), and this time Chingbee's advice will have to be ignored.

Back in the coffee shop, it is 3:35 p.m. I look up from my scribbling and spot another quote written in chalk on the board. It is from Carl Jung: "Everything that irritates us about others can lead into an understanding of ourselves."

I might say it is almost a point of irritation that everything in Hong Kong works efficiently from the subway trains to vehicular traffic. But, as Rolly warns, comparing the Philippines to the rest of its neighbors is a surefire way to feel depressed. So instead I look at the stream of people coming in for their afternoon tea or coffee. A babel of languages I hear.

It is 20°C outside the glass walls, and the smart pedestrians are still in their jackets, sweaters, knitted vests, the slim young women in tight jeans and leather boots with oh-so-thin heels.

I order another cup of tea and settle on a plush red velvet sofa with a low table where I can write under an incandescent hanging bulb. I can hear a voice in Cantonese saying, "Enjoy it while it lasts."

STREET selling shoes

TRAVEL BRIEFS

Macau travel made easy

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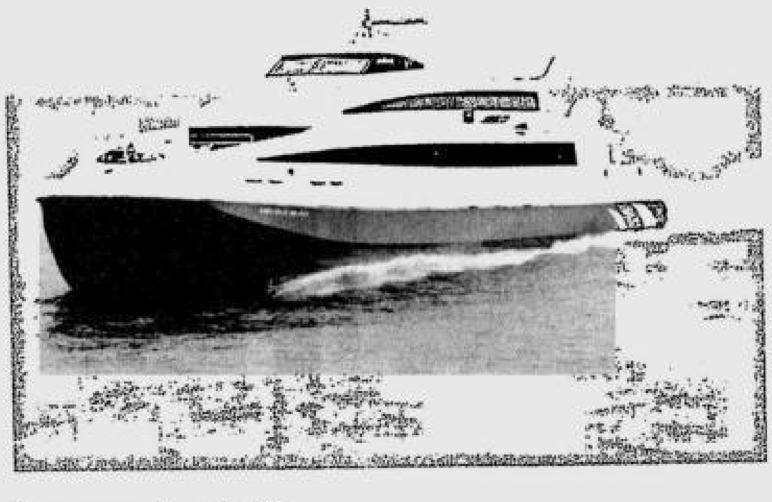
TRAVELERS do not even have to go through Hong Kong immigration or claim their luggage as Turbojet connects directly from HKIA to Macau.



For budget travelers

People traveling on a budget may want to consider Victory Liner bus as an option. The bus is not only affordable but also comfortable. Victory has modern, deluxe buses with comfortable seats, clean onboard restrooms, and even stewardesses to assist passengers. Victory Liner (tel. 0917-8425463; 3611514 or 3611506-10 local 1106; text 0922-8735721; www.victoryliner.com) terminals are strategically located across Northern Luzon. Victory Liner has chartered trips for students, tour groups or offices. Some terminals even accept payment by credit cards.

Improved website

The Philippine Department of Tourism (PDoT) in North America has launched the enhanced "Experience Philippines" website with more interactive and user-friendly features. With its new features, www.experiencephilippines.ph is now a travel portal. Travelers from North America can explore the Philippines' natural and manmade wonders, discover Filipino culture, read about the latest happenings in the Philippines, and share their adventures with thousands of other travelers. A new travel service feature is "Travel Planner" that can help travelers organize, plan and book their trips to the Philippines.

European pilgrimage

Author Visitacion "Chit" dela Torre is organizing a pilgrimage to Europe. The trip will include Our Lady of Fatima Basilica in Fatima and the Church of St. Stephen in Santarem, both in Portugal. In Spain, the trip will include visits to the tomb of St. James in Santiago de Compostela, St. Theresa of Avila, Madrid, Valencia, Montserrat, Barcelona, and Zaragoza. Also included in the itinerary are Lourdes and Nice in France; Genoa, Pisa, Assisi and Rome in Italy (tel. 8154938, 8156925, e-mail chitdelatorre@yahoo.com).

Expert advice

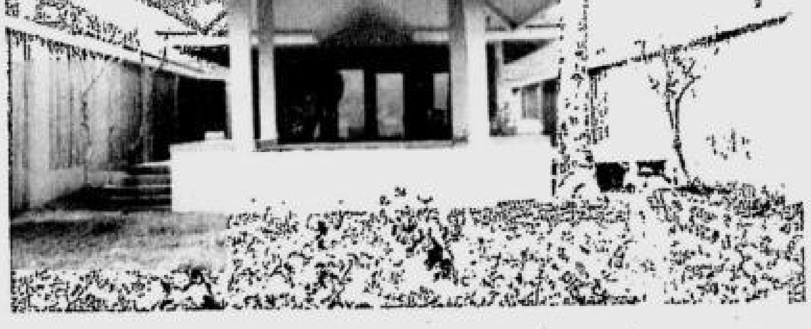
Travel Explorer, offered under the Travel Planner page of the Experience Philippines website (www.experiencephilippines.ph), gives visitors first-hand information and insights on travel destinations in the country. It is a unique voice/call service available through the toll-free number 1-888-974-9888 applicable to Canada and the United States, including Hawaii. The service is provided by Voxpop Inc. for the Department of Tourism. The department has an ongoing promo in North America, "Out of the Box," an online raffle that ends Dec. 31.

Travel mart Sept. 7-9

The 18th Philippine Travel Mart will be held Sept. 7-9 at the Megatrade Halls of the SM Megamall. This year's theme is "Everything's Here for You!" Organized by the Philippine Tour Operators Association (Philtoa), the country's largest association of tour operators, the event will showcase the country's diverse attractions. Association president Joselita Pestano said this year's focus would be on the thousand and one ways to enjoy the country's beautiful scenery, attractions and facilities (www.philtoa.ph).

Sweet deals

Singapore Airlines offers special discounted round-trip airfares until July 31: $160, Singapore; $260-$460 to popular destinations like Kuala Lumpur or Penang, Bangkok or Brunei, Jakarta or Saigon, Sydney or Perth. Prices are exclusive of taxes and surcharges. Log on to singaporeair.com.



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Guiuan: Almost famous

From page F1

Still, the Guiuan Church has not escaped the depredations of the trade in antiques; one of the church's beautifully carved side doors was said to have been sold surreptitiously in the 1980s. Despite the loss, the church's main doors still stand magnificently where they have stood for decades, together with an impassive St. Peter holding the keys to heaven.

Smaller scale

In Barangay Sulangan, the chapel of San Antonio de Padua receives a regular flow of pilgrims who come to light a votive candle and pray for divine intercession. The chapel mirrors the shell art of Guiuan Church, albeit in a much smaller scale.

Outside the chapel, from their makeshift *pawid* shacks, women sell shells as souvenirs to pilgrims. The seas off Sulangan are said to be a fertile source of shells, among them the precious golden cowrie. At the time of our visit, however, no rare golden cowrie was on display, as this shell has earned endangered status due to overharvesting.

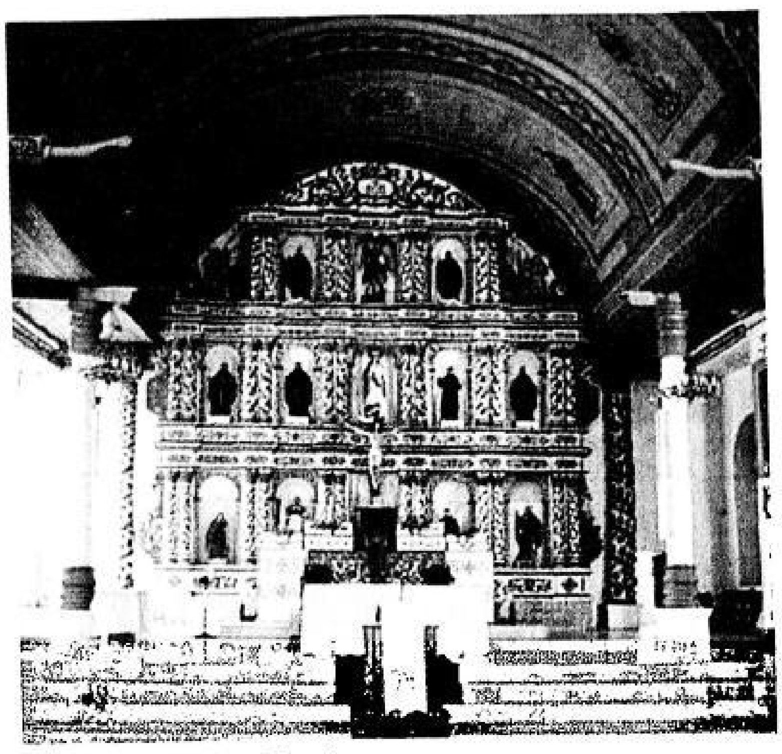
"*Kinokompresor*," a woman vendor said, explaining the method of gathering such shells.

During World War II, transients of a more belligerent bent also made Guiuan their temporary home. In Barangay Dumpao, a concrete marker off a white-sand beach commemorates the struggles of men from three nations who "fought a war" in Guiuan.

In Barangay Ngolos, the incongruous 3-km asphalt runway built by the US Navy is still there, but since the Americans are long gone, the runway now serves the more practical purpose of drying bed for corn and other grains. In the same barangay, Base 3149 served as a military base for the Americans during World War II and was the supposed base of the Enola Gay, the B-52 bomber that dropped the first atomic bomb in August 1945 on Hiroshima.

Russian refugees

GUIUAN Church façade and bell tower

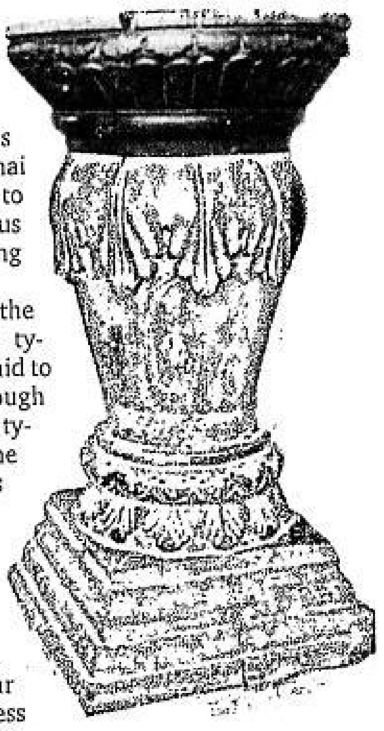


MAIN altar of Guiuan Church

The Russians, too, came to Guiuan. Tubabao Island, one of the islands within the jurisdiction of Guiuan, was used by the International Refugee Organization in 1949 to provide a temporary home for some 5,000 refugees, survivors of the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 and the Russian Civil War of 1922. The Russians, too, built their structures—houses and even a church—before eventually moving on to more permanent stations in the United States and Australia.

Among the Russian refugees was the Orthodox Saint John of Shanghai and San Francisco, who was said to have prayed for good weather, thus driving away potentially damaging typhoons.

It is said that as soon as he left, the camp was totally destroyed by a typhoon. Today, some Guianons are said to have Russian blood running through their veins. But years of regular typhoons appear to have wiped out the material traces of the saint and his flock.



SOLID wood font for holy water

During the wet season, when wind and rain lash across the islands, Guiuan comes into prominence as the point where such weather disturbances hit landfall. Indeed, Pag-asa maintains a radar station in Barangay Sapao, one of less than 10 such stations all over the country, putting Guiuan in the league of such places as Aparri and Baler.

In the dry summer months, the Pag-asa radar station, perched on a hill planted to *calamansi* trees, affords expansive views of the Pacific Ocean, the Leyte Gulf and the ugly brown scab of Manicani island—like neighboring Homonhon, a place scarred by mining.

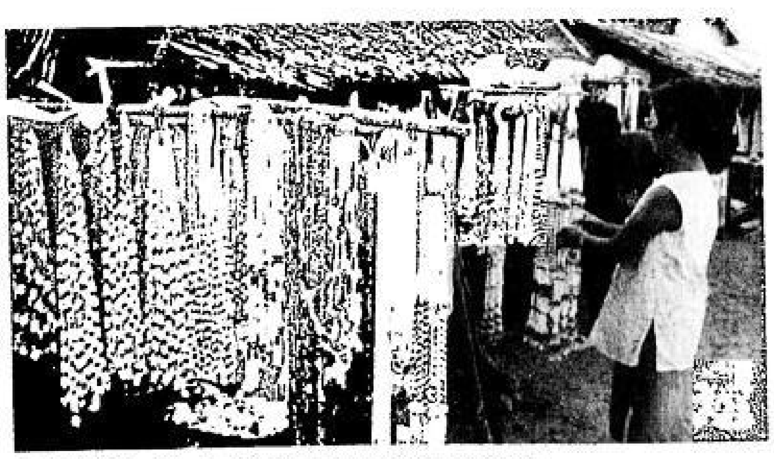
For tourists unmindful of its rich history, Guiuan has kilometers of deserted shoreline and long sand tracks that lead from beach to beach to yet another beach. One imagines spending lazy days on a bike just exploring the sleepy, scenic coastline.

From the somnolence that it has fallen into, there are signs that Guiuan's fortunes may change again soon. Calicaon, an island connected to the Samar mainland by a causeway, now hosts a resort fancy enough to sport the distinctive slope of the Minangkabau houses of Sumatra. A sign just off the dusty road that traverses the island bears witness to the ongoing construction of a yoga sanctuary.

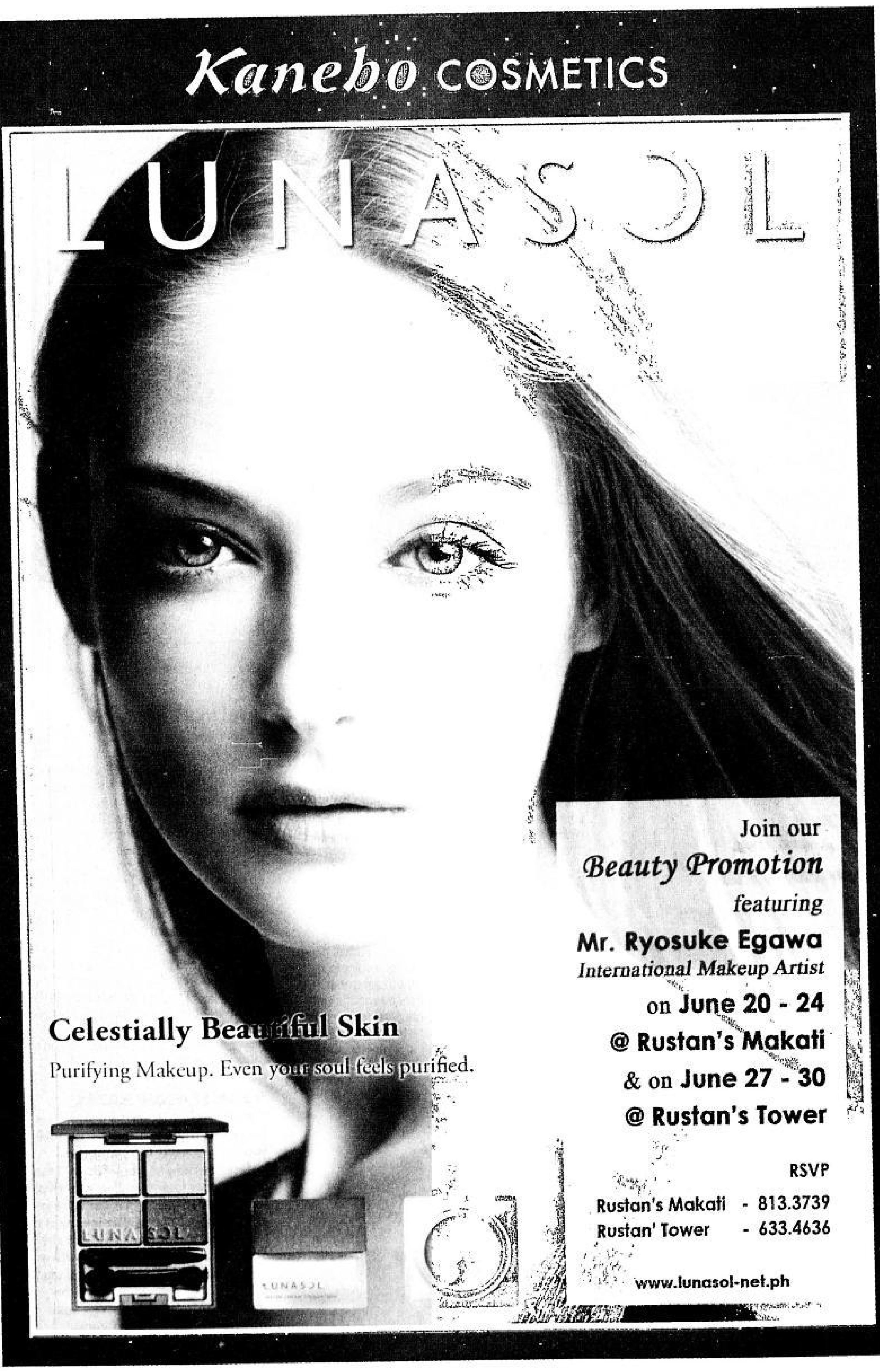
Soon, tourists and other transients may once again descend upon Guiuan, some to leave their mark and commemorate their passing and some to journey on with nary a trace.

Guiuan is three hours by van from the new Abucay station in Tacloban.

SHELL-FRAMED niche, within a side chapel of the church



STRANDS of shells: The bounty of Guiuan's seas



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A star-sized tantrum
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How Marian got the role

MARIAN RIVERA

'She has the right combination of sex appeal and innocence'

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

AS ENVISIONED by GMA 7, it was a much-hyped search—complete with the same vertiginous plot twists inherent in most Mexican *telenovelas.*

Indeed, the quest for the lead star of the all-Filipino remake of "Marimar" included a cast of hopefuls from both the Kapamilya and Kapuso channels. It

HOW/ G2

'Umagang Kay Ganda'

By Marinel R. Cruz

"VIEWERS' NEEDS CONTINUE TO CHANGE. We wanted to reflect that change," said Maria Ressa, senior vice president and head of News and Current Affairs, on why ABS-CBN's early morning show, "Magandang Umaga, Pilipinas" (MUP) has undergone a major make-over.

"We've stuck to the same format for almost a decade," she told a group of writers in a gathering on Thursday to launch the new show, "Umagang Kay Ganda."

The new show premieres tomorrow at 5:30

UMAGANG/ G3

CHEER FACTOR

Chatty canine

WHO LET THE dogs out? All sorts of dogs are now going through the wringer for the role of the talking pet Folgoso, in the local version of "Marimar." GMA 7 exec Wilma Galvante says they're looking for "an ordinary dog that is trained." TV reports say comedian Michael V will lend his voice to the chatty canine. *Bayani San Diego Jr.*

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How Marian got the role

From page G1

even had an intriguing subplot involving the purported refusal of Angel Locsin to accept the plum role originated by Mexican superstar Thalia in the mid-1990s.

In the end, GMA 7 found its "Marimar" in Marian Rivera, a 22-year-old graduate of afternoon soap operas.

Wilma Galvante, senior vice president for Entertainment TV, told INQUIRER Entertainment that Marian had bested other aspirants with her *mestiza* looks and acting skills.

"We actually had a screen test. She was asked to read for the part. In fact, we will show the video of her test on 'Showbiz Central' [today]," Galvante recounted.

Added Joyce Bernal, who will direct the series along with Mac Alejandre, "She has the right combination of innocence and sex appeal."

Galvante said the selection committee was composed of network executives, including chief executive officer and president Felipe Gozon.

Rivera told the INQUIRER that she was asked by the panel to do three scenes on audition day: "A heavy drama scene, a lighthearted moment with [nanny] Corazon and [talking dog] Folgoso and a dance sequence."

"At first, I was nervous; the lines were given to me on the spot," she recalled.

To backtrack a bit: The Kapuso network acquired the remake rights from Televisa, the Mexican company that produced "Marimar."

Local color

Galvante explained: "Televisa gave us an English copy of the script. Apart from translating it, we were also allowed to embellish and imbue it with local color."

But is a show that first became a hit in the mid-1990s, still relevant in 2007?

"Yes," Galvante said. "It tells an eternal story. Timeless. Very *komiks*. It's about an oppressed heroine who triumphs."

Rivera was just 11 years old when "Marimar" became a nationwide phenomenon in 1996.

Rivera looked back: "I wasn't a regular viewer, but I remember that Thalia was a good singer and dancer. She's sophisticated and sexy. I also heard that she had a rib removed to become sexier."

Major makeover

No, she's not planning to have a rib or two removed, too, although GMA 7 is pulling out all the stops for a major makeover.

Said Galvante, "After 'Showbiz Central,' she will undergo re-imaging. We will not show her in public until her unveiling."

Taking over the part of Marimar's lover Sergio, originally played by Latino hunk Eduardo Capetillo, is Dingdong Dantes.

"When I got the role, Dingdong called me," Rivera related. "He said he's looking forward to the show. I'm also excited. It's our first time to work together [and] we hope we'll hit it off."

Another edge over the other candidates could be her Latina blood.

She was born in Madrid to a Spanish father and Filipino mother, but was raised by her grandma in Bacoor, Cavite.

Rivera admitted that she's daunted by the big break. "I'm praying hard," she said.

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4 FANTASTIC FOUR
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Masagana CINEMA
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2 FANTASTIC FOUR
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4 INVISBLE

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2 INVISIBLE
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
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6 OCEAN'S THIRTEEN
7 FANTASTIC FOUR
8 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
9 ANGELS
10 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
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2 SILIP
3 FANTASTIC FOUR

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1 PREMONITION
2 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN

Blue Wave MARIKINA
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1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 WILDERNESS
3 INVISIBLE
4 RESERVED

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(Alabang) tel 850.1276
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2 BOLD STAR
3 SILIP
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

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2 SILIP
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
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FANTASTIC FOUR: Rise of the Silver Surfer G 12:50,3:00,5:10, 7:20,9:30	OCEAN'S THIRTEEN PG13 12:40,3:00,5:20, 7:40,10:00	FANTASTIC FOUR: Rise of the Silver Surfer G 1:20,3:30,5:40, 7:50,10:00

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PG-13
2 FANTASTIC 4
12:50, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10
G
3 FANTASTIC 4
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G
4 INVISIBLE
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PG-13

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② NEXT
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③ EIGA SAI
MTRCB R-13/PG-13/R-13
2:00, 5:00, 8:00
④ FANTASTIC FOUR - RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER (GP)
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No One's Ark 8:00 pm

June 23 (Saturday)
Blue 2:00 pm
Kamikaze Girls 5:00 pm
The Stars Converge 8:00 pm

June 24 (Sunday)
Kamikaze Girls 2:00 pm
Hotel Hibiscus 5:00 pm
Blue Spring 8:00 pm

June 25 (Monday)
Blue 2:00 pm
Inochi 5:00 pm
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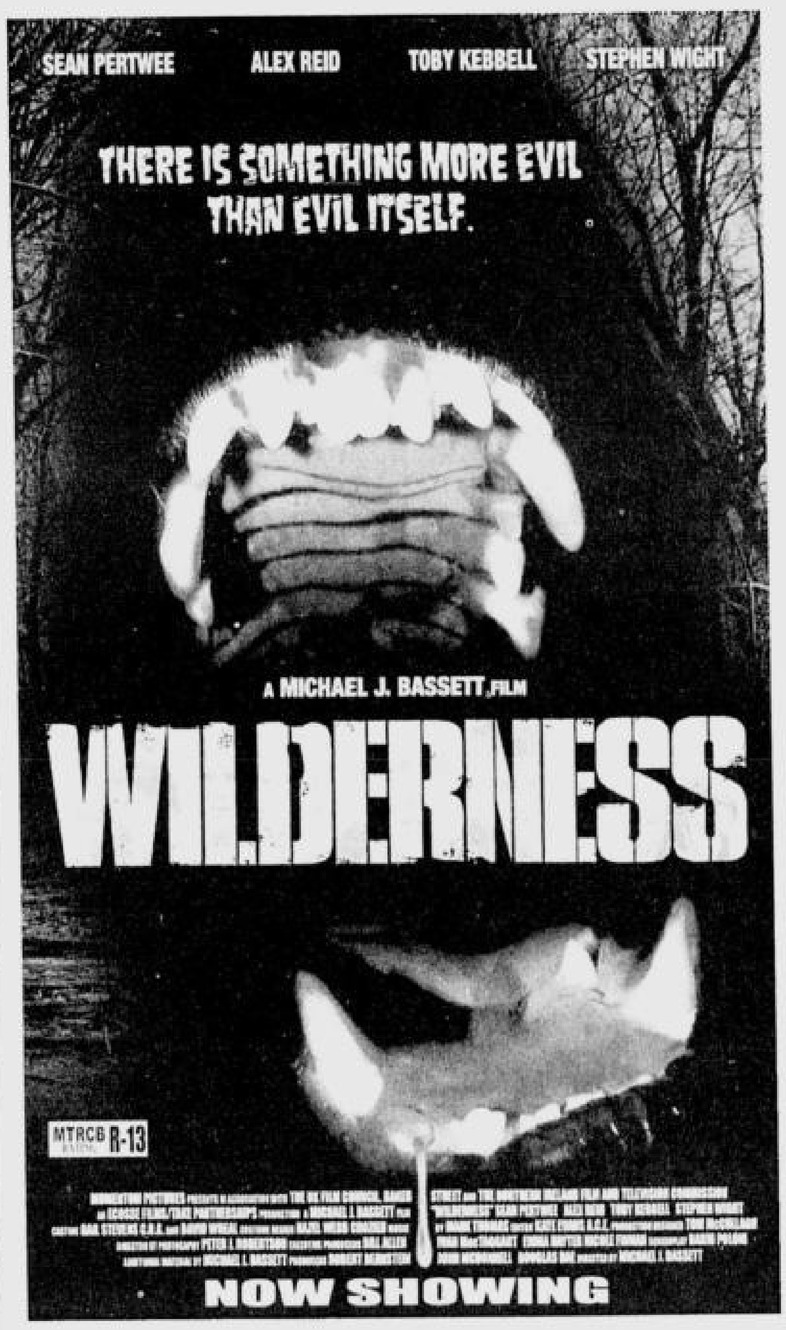

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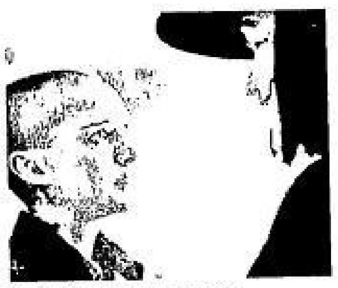
Fantasy thriller

SET AGAINST A futuristic Britain, the fantasy thriller "V for Vendetta" tells the story of a young working-class woman Evey, who is rescued from brutality by a masked man known only as "V."

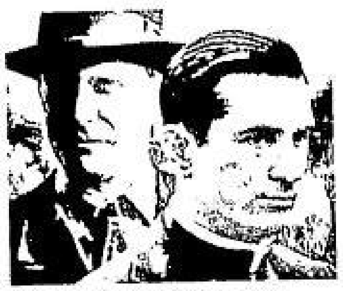
A freedom fighter committed to defend his fellow citizens against tyranny in a fascist Britain using violent guerilla tactics, V is also driven by a personal vendetta—to wreck vengeance against his past tormentors.

The movie has many political and ethical questions relevant in today's world.

Natalie Portman and Hugo Weaving star in this HBO feature tonight at 9.



"V FOR VENDETTA"



"TRUE CONFESSIONS"

Romantic movies

"Third Row," which features romantic movies, airs Saturdays, 10 p.m. on 2nd Avenue.

Scheduled on June 30 is the Richard Gere and Winona Ryder "Autumn in New York."

In the reality series "Million Dollar Listing" on Tuesdays, 8 p.m., two of the biggest real estate firms in Hollywood and Malibu outwrestle each other for coveted deals in America.

2nd Avenue is being aired on channel 53 at Sky Cable Gold and channel 28 on Global Destiny Cable.

Period film

Robert de Niro and Robert Duvall star in a tale of two brothers set on a collision course as a result of a brutal murder in 1940s Los Angeles in MGM Channel's "True Confessions," July 30 at 9 p.m.

Ulu Grosbard's movie also stars Charles Durning, Ed Flanders, Kenneth McMillan and Rose Gregorio.

'Umagang Kay Ganda'

From page G1

a.m.

Only three "MUP" hosts—Bernadette Sembrano, Winnie Cordero and Ogie Diaz—have been retained. Joining them are Edu Manzano, Kim Atienza, Pinky Webb, Rica Peralejo, Donita Rose, Anthony Taberna and Alex Santos.

Added vice president and head of Current Affairs Luchi Cruz-Valdes: "It's not [really] a complete overhaul because there's nothing [much] to overhaul."

Ressa said the main change in format is audience participation. "You'll see a very interactive show," she explained. "We will have a live audience inside and outside the studio."

The early morning magazine show was originally titled "Alas Singko Y Media" and was hosted by Babao, Erwin Tulfo, Pia Guanio, Cheryl Cosim and Bobby Yan.

In 2002, the title was changed to "Magandang Umaga Bayan." It became "Magandang Umaga, Pilipinas" in 2005.

Why replace the hosts?

Said Ressa: "We tried to have all the hosts reflect our mission statement—excellent journalism to make the world a better place. Each of these new hosts and anchors embodies this value."

She added: "Edu is a great host. He is funny and entertaining. But we forget that he is also the chair of the Optical Media Board. He has a social conscience and is extremely intelligent."

The network executive described Pinky as "the consummate journalist. She will surprise you in the coming days."

Kim "doesn't just talk about the weather," said Ressa, "he helps people get out of the way of typhoons." Rica is the on-the-spot gimmick girl.

"Donita embodies a strong sense of values," Ressa said, while Anthony "has always been controversial, but substantive. He will always make you think."

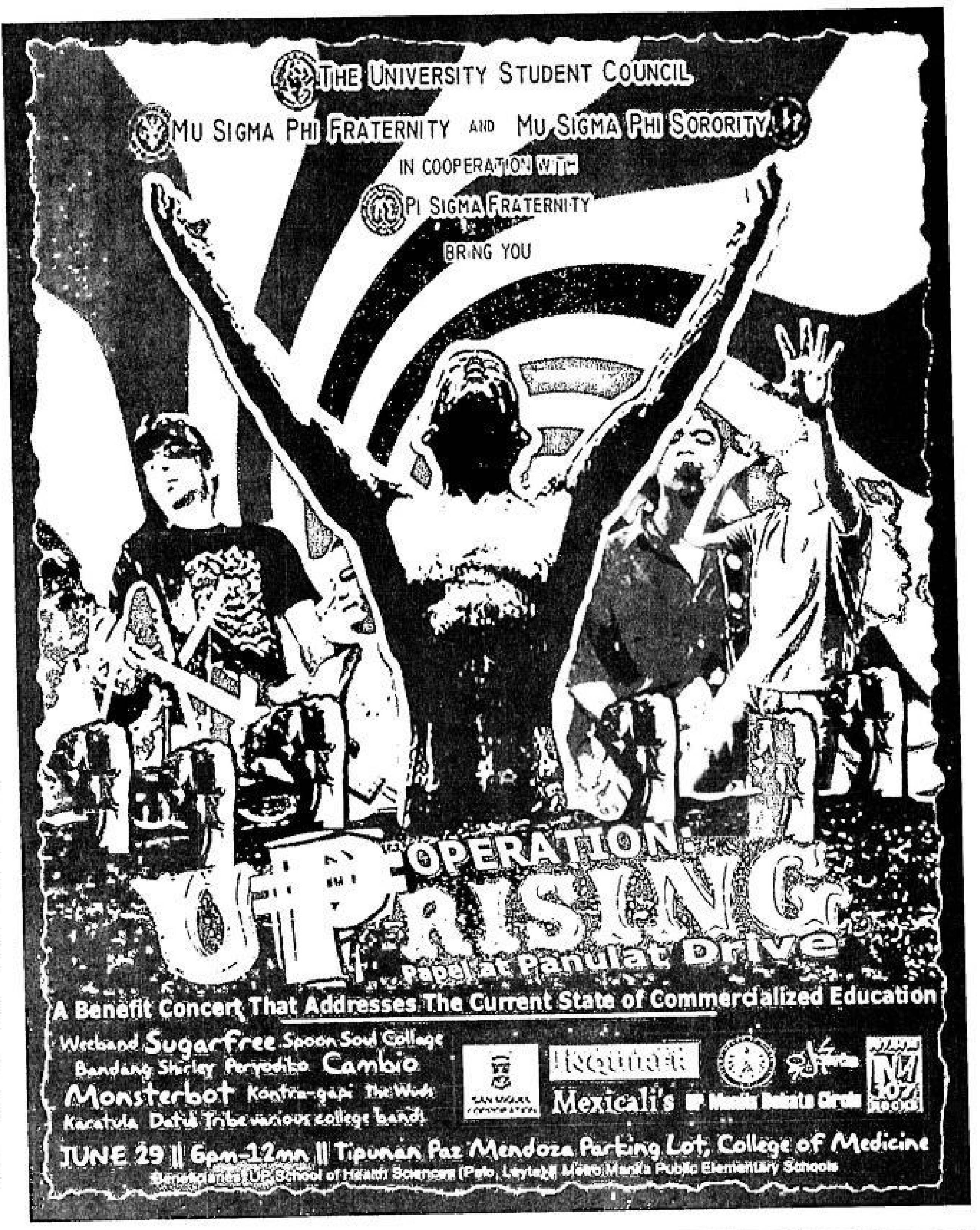
All in all, the show is about empowerment," said Ressa. "We want to give viewers the information they need."

DID YOU KNOW...

Reeve's Superman outfit

LONDON—The costume worn by actor Christopher Reeve in the original Superman film nearly 30 years ago sold for 8,400 pounds (US$16,750) at an auction in London on Wednesday. It was expected to fetch only up to 6,000 pounds.

AFP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THROUGH MOMMY'S EYES

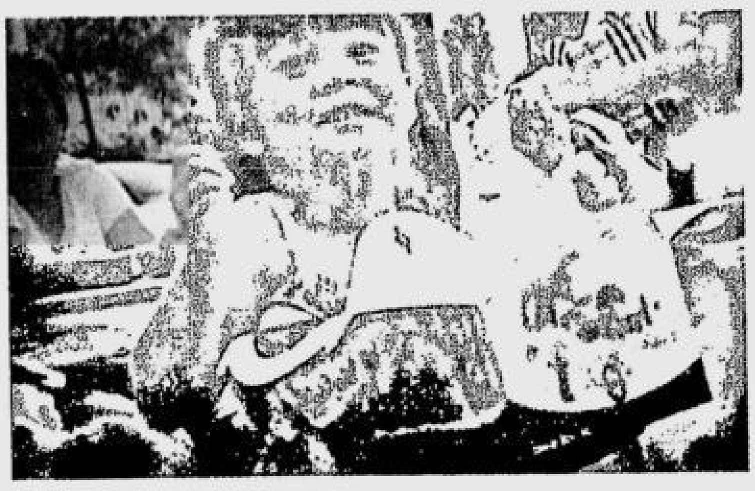
Mom at work: [illegible] with Miel

One early afternoon
at McDonald's, a mother
and daughter were giggling
and hugging, playfully teasing
each other. Though touching,
it would have been a common sight
in the store, except there was nothing
ordinary about the mother,
who is a multi-awarded actress
and singer, and the daughter,
her miniature replica.
There was nothing usual either
about the lights, cameras,
the various equipment around them,
and the people watching them play.

The Shoot

At the shoot for McDonald's follow-up to the immensely successful "Frankie's Eyes", Ms. Sharon Cuneta and youngest daughter Miel were constantly surrounded by people. They were often focused on each other though, oblivious to the noise, the activity, and the cameras shooting them from every angle. This is how the commercial was shot, full of candid and natural moments woven together to tell the story of a mother trying to teach her child a lesson about sharing.

It was fascinating to watch Sharon work and be a mom at the same time. She listened avidly to Direk Jeorge Agcaoili's directions while keeping a watchful eye on her kids. She gave great takes consistently, and patiently instructed Miel for their scenes. In between takes, Sharon would do what she did in the commercial, gently reminding Miel about sharing as she played with other children in the Playplace. She heaped affection and encouragement on her daughters as they played and charmed everyone on set.



Miel, at 2 1/2 years, saw her scenes as a game of "Simon Says", listening to directions well and going back and forth between her mom's table and the Playplace with boundless energy. She easily made friends with the other kids on set, sharing her toys and playing with Ate Frankie, who was also at hand, helping coach her baby sister and performing for an "audience" of agency and production people. It was chaotic, but full of laughter and play.

The Recording

The recording of the song was quieter, with less people present, allowing Sharon and Miel to move more freely. The fondness they had for each other was wonderful to watch as they constantly snuggled. During breaks, Sharon spoke openly about topics ranging from her family to the recent elections. Despite the lateness of the hour, her energy level was up and so was Miel's.

While Sharon recorded, Miel would join her in the booth, curious about what her mom was doing and wanting to do the same. She even did a line in the full song, doing several takes, all of them adorable and sweet, just like how she would say it in real life. Sharon herself breezed through the song, but she later related that she got teary when singing the lines because they reflected what she went through as a mom. The feeling she put into the song was an expression of the jumble of emotions a loving mother experiences: worry and self-doubt, then love and pride.

Throughout the making of the commercial, the moments shared by Sharon and Miel were effortless and genuine, and they hardly needed to act; their affection for each other was evident in everything they did. Later on Sharon would share that the story was very easy to relate to, because a loving parent will always want to make sure her children understood the importance of the values they were being taught.

Once again, McDonald's has touched on an important issue every parent faces. Rather than show selective snapshots of a family's happy and carefree moments, the commercial explored a mother's very real and tough dilemma about whether or not she is doing enough to instill in her children the right values.

It was a challenging concept, but with the efforts of the McDonald's Marketing team led by McDonald's VP for Marketing Margot Torres, Marketing Manager Barbie Ocampo; DDB Philippines' Accounts team led by Susan Dimacali (Vice-Chairman and Chief Marketing Officer), Tey San Diego (Client Service Director) and Mike Alturas (Account Director); DDB Philippines' Creative team headed by Executive Creative Director Teeny Gonzales, Deputy ECD Russ Molina, Associate Creative Director Zyle Galinato, Senior Art Director Jas Saldariega, and Copywriter Ana Menguito; Producer Irene Chingcuangco, and Director Jeorge Agcaoili, the commercial pulled it off without being patronizing. It successfully demonstrated McDonald's capability as a parent's reliable and trustworthy ally in raising children.

With its latest commercial, McDonald's continues to flourish as a brand that truly understands the Filipino family's unique experiences. Moments are made unforgettable, lessons are taught without condescension, and the importance of family is lovingly celebrated.

love ko'to™

Mommy's Eyes
Sung by Ms. Sharon Cuneta for McDonald's

Ang hirap talagang maging ina
Di ko mapigilan ang dapuan ng kaba
Lagi kong tinuturo ang ugaling maganda
Kahit "Mommy!" ang minsang sagot niya.

Ganito yata talaga ang isang ina
Laging nangangamba
Walang tigil ang pangaral hangga't di ko makitang
Ang mga sinasabi ko'y isinasapuso niya.

Simple lamang ang hiling ko
Lumaki lang siya ng tama, mabuting tao
Bago pa man siya makihalo sa mundo
Maituro ang nalalaman ko.

Ang tinuturo ko ba
Kulang pa
O sobra-sobra na?
Sa gitna ng pagdududa,
Dun ko na nakita
Ang mga sinasabi ko
Isinasapuso niya.

Heartwarming moments in McDonald's latest commercial "Mommy's Eyes", starring Ms. Sharon Cuneta and daughter Miel

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Bored of the 'Rings' in London

LAURA Michelle Kelly as Galadriel

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

LONDON—THE BIG NEWS HERE IN ENTERtainment is the opening Tuesday night of the musical version of "The Lord of the Rings."

The musical, which comes with a hefty price tag of £12.5 million (US$24.9 million), is considered the costliest production ever in the West End. Dubbed "Bored of the Rings" by the Toronto Star when it began in Toronto last year, the show was rewritten and shortened for its London run. Still, the revamped show at Theatre Royal, Drury Lane earned mixed reviews from London's critics.

Those who panned the musical adaptation of **J.R.R. Tolkien**'s epic on Hobbits, elves and dwarfs in the Middle Earth were ferocious. **Charles Spencer** of The Daily Telegraph, who also saw the Toronto production, questioned why the production had to be brought to the West End.

"I'm sorry to report that it remains a thumping great flop," Charles declared. "I took my 14-year-old son along, who enjoyed **Peter Jackson**'s epic 'Lord of the Rings' films and is, I would guess, exactly the age and sex this show needs to attract in order to survive. Unfortunately, he hated it even more than I did, sitting with his head in his hands in those moments when he wasn't tittering at the ponderous inanities of the script and the triteness of the lyrics."

'Tiresome grandiosity'

Charles added: "Repeatedly during this show, you feel its creators have more money than either sense or imagination… and the attempts at humor—'May the hair on your toes never fall out'—are so cute you feel faintly sick… Only **Michael Therriault**'s charismatically creepy and athletic Gollum, and **James Loye** and **Peter Howe** who make a touching double act as Frodo Baggins and Sam Gamgee, come to persuasive life. These last three are survivors of the original Canadian production. Full marks for loyalty but few for judgment, for they have wasted their time and talent on a show that combines tiresome grandiosity with mind-rotting mediocrity. Its run, I fear, will be nasty, brutish and short."

The Independent's **Paul Taylor** groused: "Is it now the one show to rule them all? I wonder what the Elvish word is for 'no.'…The promised 'hybrid of text, physical theater, music and spectacle never previously seen on this scale' turns out to be a show with a bit of an identity crisis, strong on dynamic spectacle, squeezed as drama, and in two minds about how it wants to use music dramatically."

The show's saving grace seems to be Michael. Paul also had some kind words for the actor playing Gollum: "The evening's stand-out performer is Michael Thierriault who jerks and jack-knifes like an addict assailed by painful, conflicting impulses as the slimy, perverted Gollum."

The other Gollum

By coincidence, we'll interview here that other Gollum, **Andy Serkis**, who also won raves for his take on this character in the Peter Jackson film trilogy. We wonder if he has seen the musical and Michael as Gollum.

Among the dissenting critics who liked the stage production are The Times' **Sam Marlowe** and the Guardian's **Michael Billington**.

Sam wrote: "It's finally here—the year's most anticipated theatrical opening, costing £12.5 million and heralded by high hopes on one hand and prophecies of doom on the other. When I saw **Matthew Warchus**'s production in Toronto last year, I was dazzled and delighted by its ingenuity and visual invention. I was also frustrated by its slower, muddier passages, unimpressed by some key performances and deeply disappointed by its bungled climax.

"Happily, almost everything that was wrong has been put right. Some will prefer the slick grandiosity of Peter Jackson's films; others will sneer at the very idea of singing hobbits. It's their loss. Warchus and his team have a created a brave, stirring, epic piece of popular theater that, without slavishly adhering to J.R.R. Tolkien's novels, embraces their

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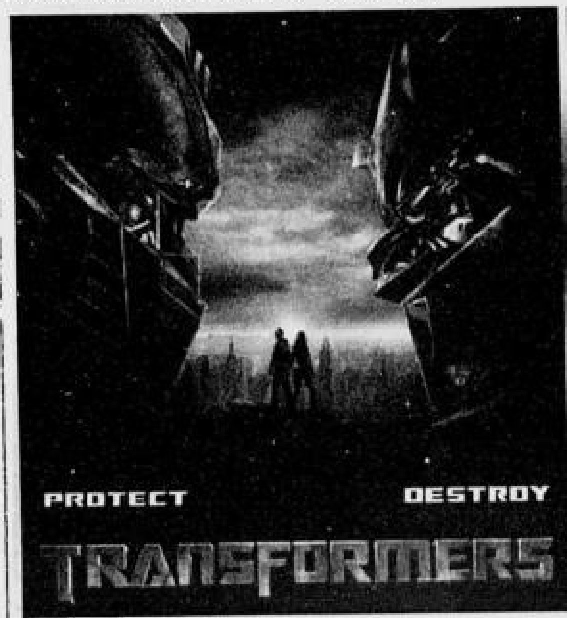

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3 NEXT 11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10
4 THE INVISIBLE 11:25 1:50 4:15 6:40 9:05
5 OCEAN'S 13 12:30 3:15
POC 3 5:50 9:00
6 FANTASTIC FOUR 1:00 3:05 5:10 7:15
7 FANTASTIC FOUR 11:00 1:00 3:05 5:10 7:15 9:20
8 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN? 1:15 3:50 6:25 9:00

Congratulations to the winners of the recently concluded
May 24 - Roland Rodriguez
May 25 - Joseph Yu
May 26 - Melvin Campo
May 27 - Arthur Yap
May 28 - Hylyn Tiu
May 29 - Riza Nemil
May 30 - Rowena Wendy Lei
May 31 - Jeremy Rodriguez
June 01 - Roanne Valeria Lim
June 02 - Teresita Samson
June 03 - Adrian Elgario
June 04 - Trina Melissa Federis
June 05 - Mark Lauren Lim

OCEAN'S THIRTEEN
Newspaper Countdown
You may pick up your Ocean's 13 gift pack courtesy of Warner Bros. at L4 Robinsons Movieworld Galleria Ortigas Ave., QC from Mondays thru Fridays 10AM to 6PM. Please proceed to the Cinema 5 Operations Office. For the purposes, please submit a photocopy of your ID with picture (school or company ID, SSS, driver's license, credit card with photo, passport) Please look for Winston Olarte or Gemma Navarro.

NOVALICHES Ticket Price: P90 / P100 935-3231 / 935-3229-30
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2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 OCEAN'S 13
4 NEXT
5 THE INVISIBLE
6 ANGELS

PIONEER Ticket Price: P100 / P110 687-5378
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2 FANTASTIC FOUR 12:10 2:15 4:20 6:25 8:30
3 ANGELS 12:00 2:45 5:30 8:15
4 WILDERNESS 12:05 2:15 4:25 6:35 8:40

STA. ROSA Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (049) 837-0907
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 ZODIAC
3 ANGELS
4 PAN'S LABYRINTH
5 THE INVISIBLE

LIPA Ticket Price: P 90 (043) 757-3884 (043) 312-5870
1 ANGELS
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
4 OCEAN'S 13
5 PAN'S LABYRINTH

DASMARIÑAS Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (046) 416-4332
1 BLOOD and CHOCOLATE
2 PAN'S LABYRINTH
3 THE INVISIBLE
4 ANGELS
5 FANTASTIC FOUR

ANGELES Ticket Price: P 90 / P95 (045) 892-2348
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 ANGELS
3 ZODIAC
4 THE INVISIBLE

IMUS Ticket Price: P100 (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188
1 ANGELS
2 THE INVISIBLE
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 OCEAN'S 13
5 BORDERTOWN
6 SILIP

STARMILLS Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (045) 875-1927
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2 ZODIAC
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4 ANGELS
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BACOLOD Ticket Price: P70 (034) 441-0459
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 THE CONDEMNED
3 WHISPER
4 RESERVE
5 ANGELS
6 LUCKY YOU

ILOILO Ticket Price: P70.50 / P80.50 (033) 336-8070
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 ANGELS
3 BORDERTOWN
4 WHISPER
5 OCEAN'S 13
6 LETTER to IWO JIMA

SPIN CITY

Veterans top UK list

LONDON—A REISsued compilation of songs by ad-hoc supergroup The Traveling Wilburys went straight to the top of the British album chart last week, the Official UK Charts Company said.

The Wilburys, founded in the 1980s, was made up of George Harrison of the Beatles; Bob Dylan, Roy Orbison; Tom Petty of the Heartbreakers; and Jeff Lynne of Electric Light Orchestra.

The chart-topping "Collection" is a reissue of the Wilburys' two albums which had not been available to music fans for a decade.

More oldies

Other veteran rockers figuring in the Top 10 were The Who, whose new greatest hits collection "Then And Now" debuted in ninth, and former Beatle Paul McCartney's latest album "Memory Almost Full" dropping to 10th. *Reuters*

Idol's latest

Kelly Clarkson's maiden edition has a new album called "My December" (RCA).

This is her third recording, follow-up to 2004's smash hit, "Breakaway," which sold six million in the US and 10 million worldwide.

"My December" has Grammy winner David Kahne (The Strokes, Bangles, Sugar Ray, Sublime, Paul McCartney) as producer, and LA punk legend Mike Watt as collaborator on three songs.

JENNIFER LOPEZ

All-Spanish

Jennifer Lopez goes back to her Latin roots in "*Como Ama Una Mujer* (How A Woman Loves)," her first all-Spanish album (Sony BMG).

The 11-track CD took three years to finish and was produced by JLo's husband, Marc Anthony.

Filipino classics

Richard Merk interprets the music of revered Filipino songwriters in "*Alaala*" (Manna Records).

The CD includes Richard's versions of classic songs written by Josefino Cenizal ("*Hindi Kita Malimot*"), George Canseco ("*Kailangan Kita*"), Mike Velarde ("*Ikaw*"), Constancio de Guzman ("*Ang Tangi Kong Pag-ibig*") Resty Umali and Levi Celerio ("*Saan Ka Man Naroroon*").

The title track, a new song composed by Noel Cabangon, is dedicated to Leyte's landslide victims.

Bored of the 'Rings' ...

From page H1.

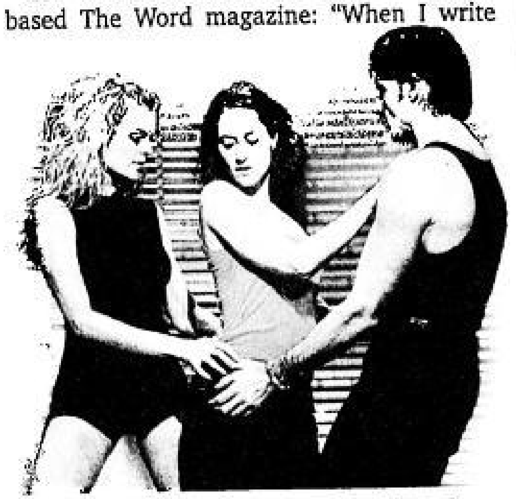
spirit. The show has charm, wit, and jaw-dropping theatrical brio; crucially, it also has real emotional heft."

Michael, writing for the Guardian, opined: "Although I find it difficult to buy into the Tolkien myth, I happily pay tribute to the skills of Warchus and his production team. For all the technology on display in a £12.5-million musical, they avoid presenting us with a heartless industrialized spectacle."

> The one saving grace seems to be the actor playing Gollum

'Dirty Dancing'

Another West End show that's adapted from a movie is "Dirty Dancing." Time Out London's verdict: "The story of Baby Houseman's conversion from my-heart-belongs-to-daddy schoolgirl into sexy adolescent is the archetypal Ugly Duckling story. That's helped in no small respect by the fact that the object of her affections, dancing teacher Johnny Castle, is played by **Josef Brown** who has an electric dancing talent and a sex appeal to match. As Baby, **Georgina Rich** has an attractive, well-earthed presence—and with the two leads working so well, all else that's needed is a fully functioning sound system and some great dance sequences. That the two are in abundance may explain why everyone was whooping and cheering by the end."


A SCENE FROM the West End version of another hit movie, "Dirty Dancing."

Stage to film

An exciting development—this time, going from stage to screen, is the casting of Prada-wearing "devil" **Meryl Streep** in the movie version of the West End hit, "Mamma Mia!" Joining her in the movie that Playbill says could be nicknamed "The Devil Sings ABBA," are **Pierce Brosnan**, **Colin Firth** and **Julie Walters**. Filming will be in London.

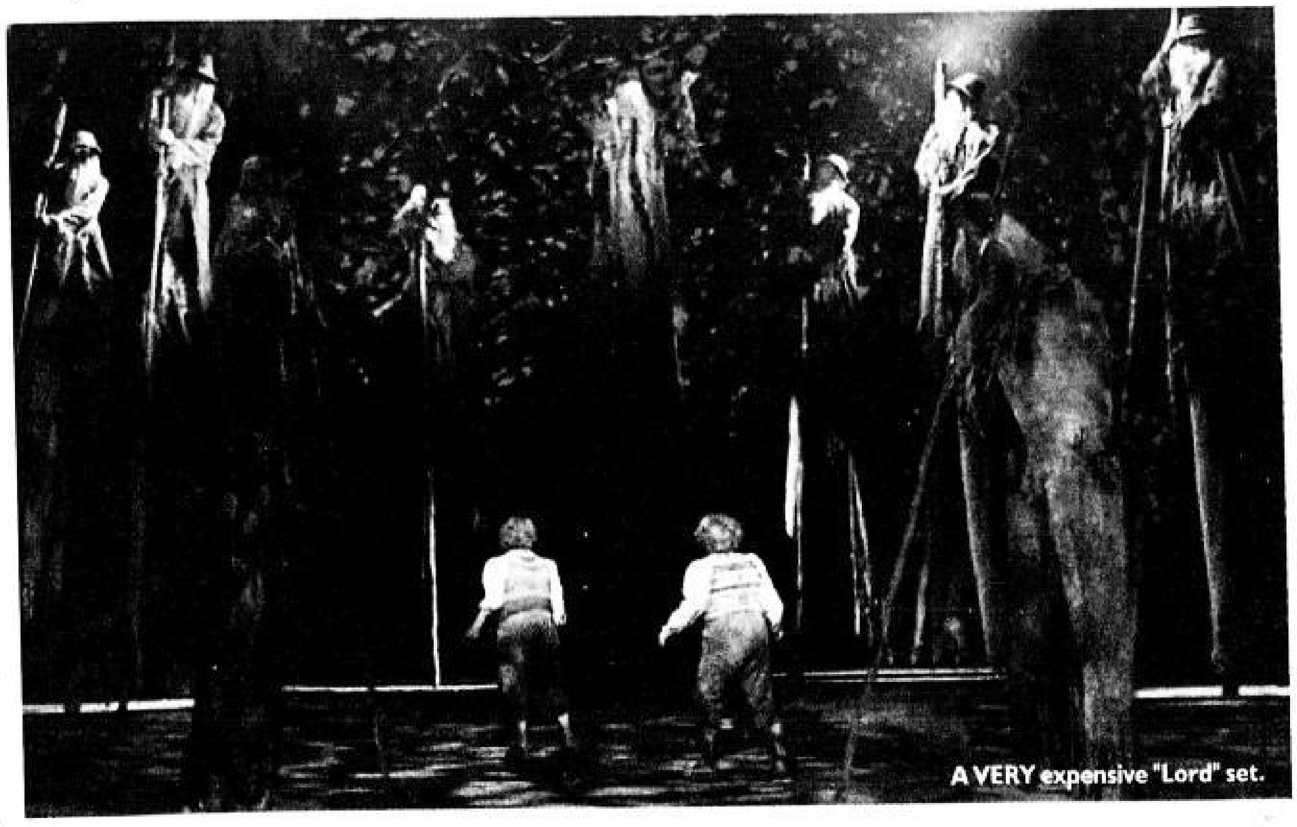
Gatsby party

Also making news in UK's capital Tuesday night was **Paul McCartney**, who reportedly threw a Great Gatsby-themed party to celebrate his 65th birthday. Among the star-studded guests, according to news reports, were **Elton John** ("in extravagant purple pants"—what will Prince say to that?) and his partner, **David Furnish**, and **Kate Moss**.

More than three decades after the Beatles split, the reported Paul McCartney-**Yoko Ono** feud is still a hot topic. Sir Paul was recently asked one more time if Yoko had anything to do with the break up of one of the greatest bands ever. "No," he replied and did not say anything more.

He was more elaborate in the London-based The Word magazine: "When I write something, half the time I don't have a specific idea of what it's about. I've always had that wave of people who interpret things and say, 'Oooh... he's talking about Yoko.' And I'm thinking, 'What?' I'm bloody not. I'm talking about a car."

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com and read his blog, "The Nepales Report," on www.inquirerbloggers.net/nepalesreport.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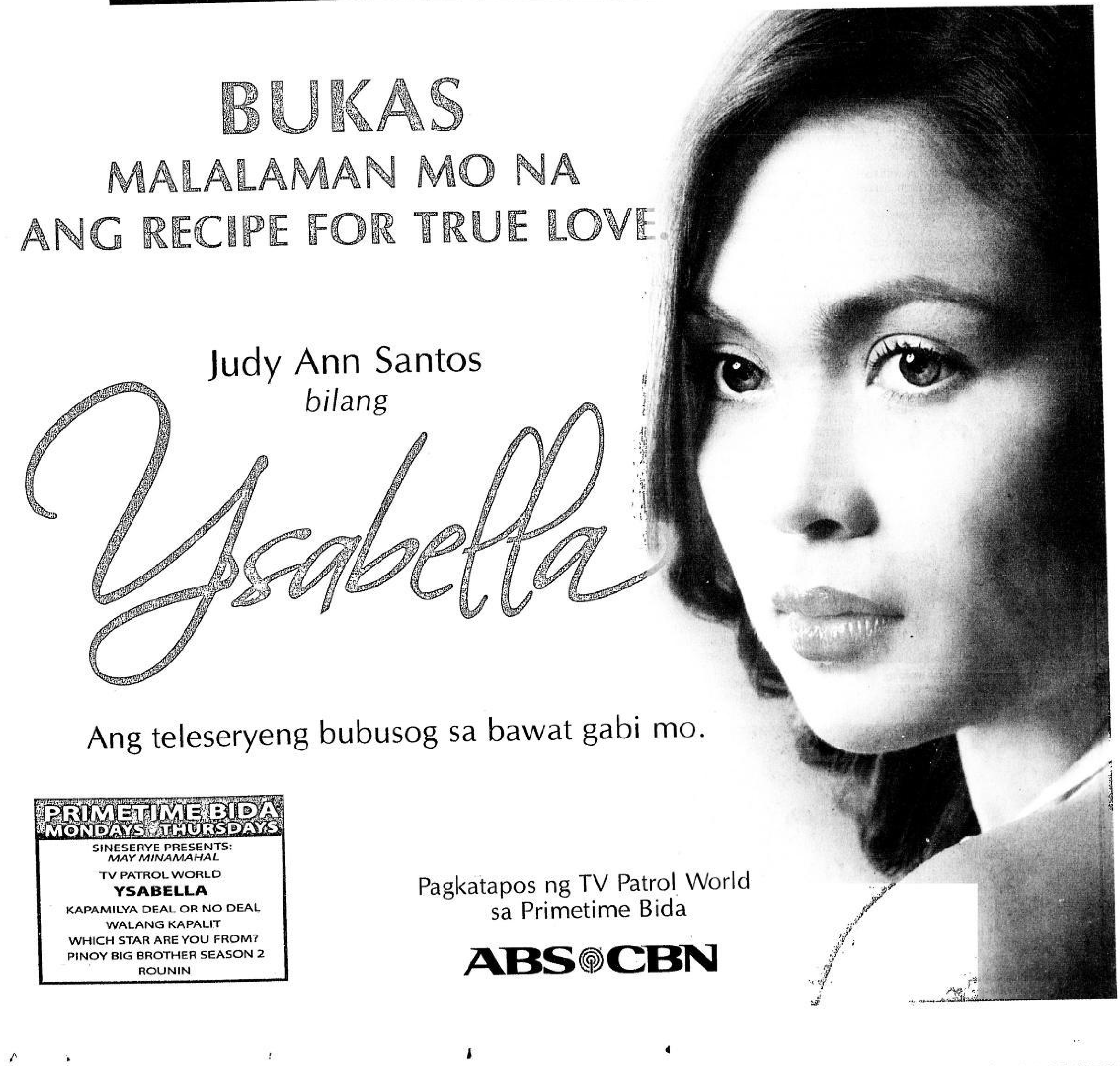
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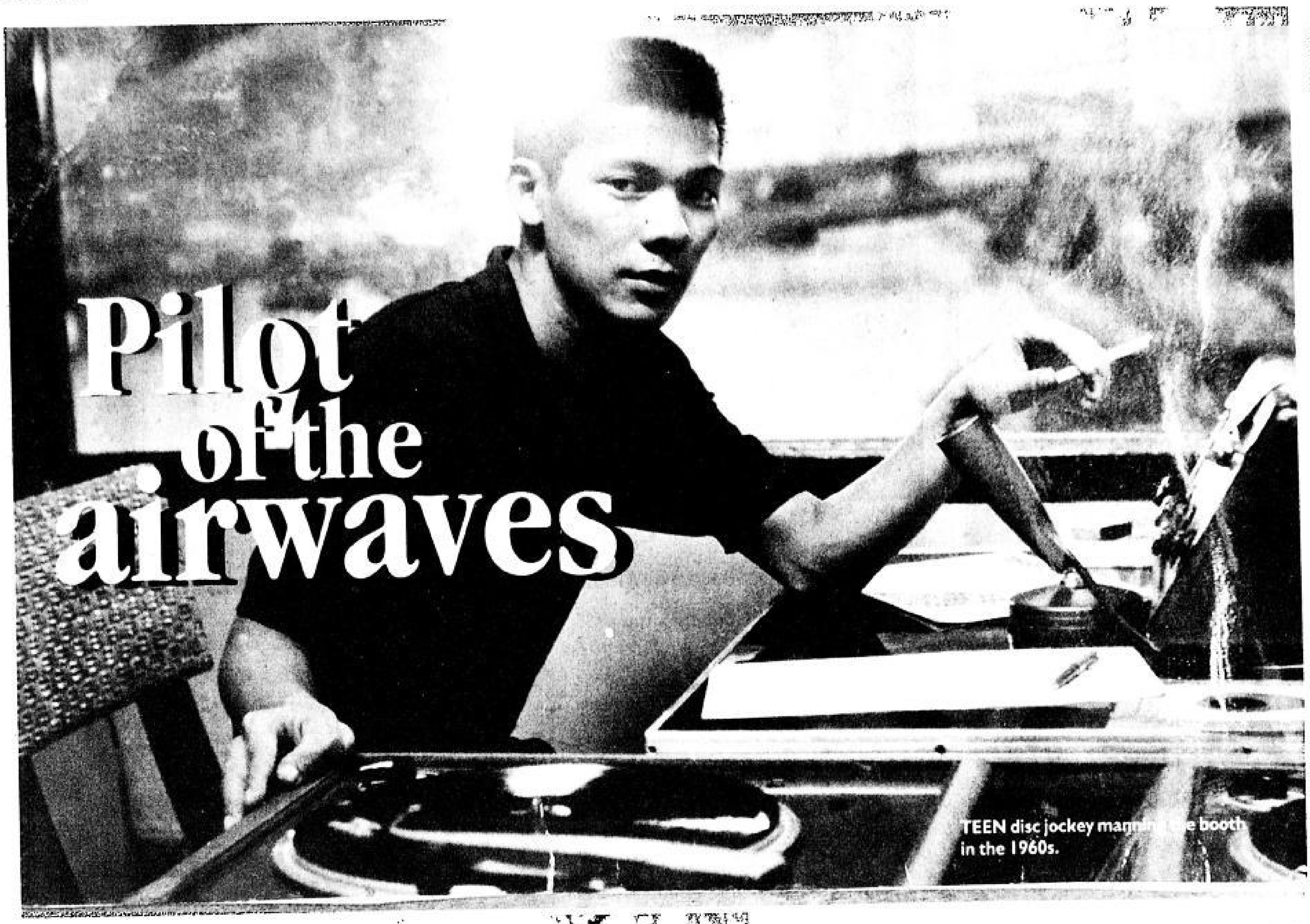
Pilot of the airwaves



TEEN disc jockey manning the booth in the 1960s.

THE ROAS at home, now: It's been "43 years of bliss ... and blisters," he jests.

WITH their kids (clockwise, from bottom L) Chiqui, Leah, Joey, and Ben in the 1970s.

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Photos by August de la Cruz
ADDITIONAL PHOTOS COURTESY OF PETE ROA

BROADCASTING PIONEER PETE ROA JOINED the biz when he was still in high school.

"I was studying at the National Teachers' College then and one of the professors was running radio station dzTC," Pete recalls. "I was invited to join the station as disc jockey."

While manning the booth, he earned his high school and, later, college diploma (Speech and Drama) at the Far Eastern University.

The radio prodigy eventually crossed over to television and became famous as co-host of the ABC 5 variety show "Dance-O-Rama," along with Baby O'Brien, in 1962.

Envisioned as a local version of "American Bandstand," "Dance-O-Rama," which ran nightly at 6, was the youth show to beat in the 1960s. There was even a Sampaguita movie version of "Dance-O-Rama" in 1963—with Susan Roces and Jose Mari Gonzales as lead stars and Pete and Baby playing themselves.

Dance whiz

"Foreign acts often guested on our show to promote their concerts at the Araneta Coliseum," Pete recounts. "An example was [US singer] Dee Dee Sharp who popularized the dance hit 'Mashed Potato.'"

He also remembers: "I broke the ice with the show's guests by mastering their different dance steps—like the Bunny Hop, Hokey Pokey and Charleston. Since I knew their dance tunes well, the guests became at ease with me."

Pete had great onscreen chemistry with Baby. "She's a jolly person," he says, "easy to work with."

After a year on air, the "Dance-O-Rama" team broke up when Baby was pirated by ABS-CBN. Baby's solo program ("The Baby O'Brien Show") on ABS-CBN was pitted against her old show.

Replacing Baby on "Dance-O-Rama" was UP campus beauty Boots Anson, daughter of Sampaguita star Oscar Moreno.

Needless to say, Pete hit it off, beautifully with the newcomer.

RENEWING their vows on their 25th wedding anniversary in 1989, with Boots' parents Oscar Moreno and Belen Cristobal as witnesses.

BABY O'Brien and Pete interview character actor Ben Perez on the show.

Boots reminisces: "He's my mentor. He used to take me to the ABC 5 canteen, order milk for me and give me lectures on broadcasting."

Between lessons, he found time to woo the budding host-actress.

The courtship was interrupted when Pete was lured by ABS-CBN to co-host "The Baby O'Brien Show" in January 1964.

But even though they were on rival shows and stations, Pete eventually persisted in his pursuit of Boots. A few months later, they eloped.

Or as Pete chooses to remember it: "*Tinanan ako ni* Boots (she forced me to elope). The night before, we went to a party with [newspaper columnist] Joe Guevara."

Joe distracted Boots' chaperones and the TV sweethearts became husband-and-wife on June 4, 1964. She was 19; he was 24.

Walkout

Later, Boots joined Pete in ABS-CBN, where he was production manager.

When "Student Canteen" hosts Eddie Ilarde, Leila Benitez and Bobby Ledesma walked out of the noontime program following a dispute, Pete handpicked Boots, along with Ben Aniceto, Pepe Pimentel and Nelda Navarro, as replacements.

Boots eventually had her own ABS-CBN show, "Sunday Sweet Sunday," with Jimmy Melendrez and Fides Cuyugan-Asensio in 1968.

Pete admits that "dealing with [temperamental] artists" was one of the challenges of that job. "But if you were good, I would cultivate and keep you busy with assignments."

One such prized talent was comedian Chichay.

"I thought she was gifted," Pete says. "So I put her in the 'Nida-Nestor Show,' top-billed by Nida Blanca and Nestor de Villa."

As production manager and, later, assistant program director and administrative manager of ABS-CBN, Pete worked closely with the network's biggest stars—Nida, Nestor, Dolphy, Panchito, among others.

"Nida was always pleasant. Very cooperative," he says. Nida's partner, Nestor, was another story.

DIRECTING Roderick Paulate and Perla Bautista on the TV drama, "Elisa."

YESTERDAY

A certified broadcasting pioneer, Pete Roa witnessed the glory days of radio and television

"We didn't get along. Nestor used to brag that he was a good dancer. But anything he could do, I could do better," Pete says, roaring with glee.

Pete describes Dolphy and Panchito, lead stars of the prime time top-rater "Buhay Artista," as "natural" talents.

What spelled the difference in the Dolphy-Panchito tandem was the former's humility, Pete opines. "Even though he's the bigger star, Dolphy had no qualms about letting Panchito shine. That's why they worked so well together."

Another crucial factor in the comedy show's success was writer-director Ading Fernando. "He was the key. He was a great scriptwriter and musician."

Pete insists that Ading's off-key singing was just an act. "He was doing that on purpose, to make people laugh. He actually had a good ear for music. He played the guitar and sang well."

Another network asset was actor-turned-director Tony Santos Sr. "Tony's assignment was 'Oras ng Ligaya,' which starred Sylvia La Torre, Oscar Obligacion and Eddie San Jose. Tony was a whiz and he was brave. He fought for his principles."

In mounting TV programs, Pete kept his love for theater in mind. "I endeavored to apply the same high production values in theater to television. Things were harder then because we didn't have the same high-tech facilities that today's networks have."

Pete worked for ABS-CBN until a year before the declaration of martial law in 1972.

As freelancer, Pete directed and produced TV shows for different channels—among them "Elisa," a drama anthology headlined by Boots.

Pete insists that it was a breeze working with his wife. "It was more difficult for Boots. I often had to remind her that, on the set, she was an actress and not my wife."

It was harder still for Boots' leading men. "Her partners weren't comfortable—especially in doing tender scenes. I asked them: Don't you know how to court women?"

In the mid-1970s, Pete set up THINC, a talent management company, and SPADS, an advertising agency. With friends, he put up other business ventures: an RTW company (Wearhouse Inc.) and restaurant (Barnyard).

In 1982, Pete, Boots and their four children Leah, Joey, Chiqui and Ben migrated to the United States, where they stayed for a decade.

In Washington D.C., Pete managed a Filipino restaurant, l'Au Berge Philippine (or the Philippine Inn).

Stroke Society

When the Roas moved back to Manila in 1993, Pete returned to radio, anchoring "Tita Boots at Tito Pete" on dzXL.

In 1997, he had a stroke.

Willful Pete refused to quit smoking even after he fell ill—with cerebral infarction, glaucoma (in his right eye), emphysema and pneumonia. "I had been smoking since I was 14," he admits.

Recently, he had another major health crisis—stomach cancer, which required a gastrectomy. His smoker's cough aggravated his condition. "Since I kept coughing, the cut on my stomach grew bigger."

That was when he decided that he'd had enough.

"My neurologist, Dr. Bong Aquino asked me to join the Stroke Society of the Philippines. I feel it's important for me to take up this cause. I want to discourage people from smoking," he points out.

If his own life could offer valuable lessons to others, so be it, he says.

"He is an effective spokesperson," Boots affirms. "For one thing, he has maintained his sense of humor in spite of his ailments."

Pete explains: "My rationale is that a happy mind makes a happy person. If you have health problems, the only way to survive is to think positive."

Through it all, wife Boots has remained steadfastly by his side.

Pete jests: "We've been married for 43 years … 43 years of bliss for her and 43 years of blisters for me!"

LUAU on "Two for the Road," from L: Elvira Manahan, Boots, Pete and Eddie Mercado.

WITH fellow dzXL radio anchors, including Inday Badiday, seated second from L.

IN THE US with their kids and grandchildren.

A flying hunk, a star-sized tantrum ...

From page H6

charitable side. Her family's breadwinner for years, she is also kind to strangers.

A bold star who played her *yaya* in one project recalls receiving an unexpected gift from the glamour gal: the dress that she (the boldie) had admired in one scene! The stunned recipient later found that the dress was from a very exclusive store, and was very expensive.

Super *modela*

Against all odds, the RPN-9/Solar reality show "Philippines' Next Top Model" found a winner in Grendel Alvarodo. She received a representation contract with a Hong Kong-based agency, half a million pesos in cash, an eight-page fashion pictorial in a glossy mag, and a P150,000 modeling deal, among others.

1960s star

We hear that 1960s star Rosemarie Sonora is vacationing in Manila until August. In these parts, that's enough time for a movie, a *teleserye* and a few dozen commercials. Except that the US-based actress seems bent on spending time with her children Sheryl and Wowie, and her grandchildren.

Far from amicable

News that Rivermaya frontman Rico Blanco quit the band has been confirmed. There are rumors of a reality show to find a new vocalist.

There's no word on this from band manager Lizza Nakpil. But, in a media statement, she said, "In the next few weeks, we will finalize our plans." That's the formal part. In the rest of the statement Nakpil dissed her former ward, using such words as "inconsistent" and "inaccurate."

Last we heard, Rico Blanco was designing clothes. Angel Locsin is also set to study fashion designing.

May connection *ba 'to?*

Top of the tabloids

The top show biz stories in local tabloids this week (and why we are moved, if we are moved):

- Tiya Pusit, *ooperahan ngayon* (Friday) *sa mata.*
- "Star Talk," *humingi ng tawad kay* Tiya Pusit.
- Joey de Leon, *nag*-sorry *kay* Tiya Pusit.
- Ryan, *gugulphin ng nanay ni* Juday ... if he makes Juday cry.
- Juday, type *papakin ni* Ryan. (Would this make her cry?)
- Juday, *di pa nakakatanggap ng* marriage proposal *kay* Ryan.
- Ryan, *di interesado sa* wedding *nila ni* Juday. (*Owss?*)
- SS4 Avenger Jesi Corcuera, *gusto nang maging tunay na* girl. (Just do it, dude.)
- Jesi Corcuera, *nagba*-bra *na, pero* briefs *pa rin ang gamit.*
- Aiza Seguerra, gusto magkaanak via artificial insemination. (Didn't she say this months ago?)
- Aiza, *nagbayad ng* $600 *para sa isang* tattoo.

RICO BLANCO

Twin protests

- Richard, Raymond, *hindi payag mag-artistang muli si* Annabelle. (Those who care, raise your hands.)
- Angel (Locsin), *gumawa ng* shampoo commercial *sa* Bangkok. (Her middle initial is K, for *kayod*. Kidding.)
- Angel, *nagpa*-tutor *kay* Gina Alajar.
- Ara Mina, *naghihirap na? Bahay, nakasanla?*
- House and lot *ni* Sam Milby *sa* Greenwoods, *pinagdududahang bigay ng pulitiko.* (It costs at least P10M *daw*. What public office pays that much?)
- Sam belongs to Madam Curie club. (Meaning, *kuripot*. That's probably how he raised money for the house?)
- Roxanne (Guinoo), *mas feel si* Willie *kaysa kay* Bong. (Revillame vs Revilla—there are other letters in the alphabet, girl.)
- Alma (Moreno) 2 days *di sinipot ang taping, pinalitan ni* Ruffa.
- Ruffa returns to Regal.
- Annabelle, Ruffa, *di binarat ni* Mother Lily.
- Police escorts *ni* Ruffa, *aalisin na.*
- Ruffa, *iwas muna sa mga lalake.* (Go away now, police escorts.)
- Birthday wish *ni* Ruffa—*matahimik na ang isyu sa kanila ni* Yilmaz. (Clarity begins at home.)
- Ruffa, *umaasang dadalawin ni* Yilmaz *sa* birthday.
- Yilmaz, *welkam sa* birthday *ni* Ruffa.
- *Mas mataas ang* talent fee *ni* Ruffa *sa* "D'Buzz" *kaysa kay* Kris.

KRIS AQUINO

MARICEL SORIANO

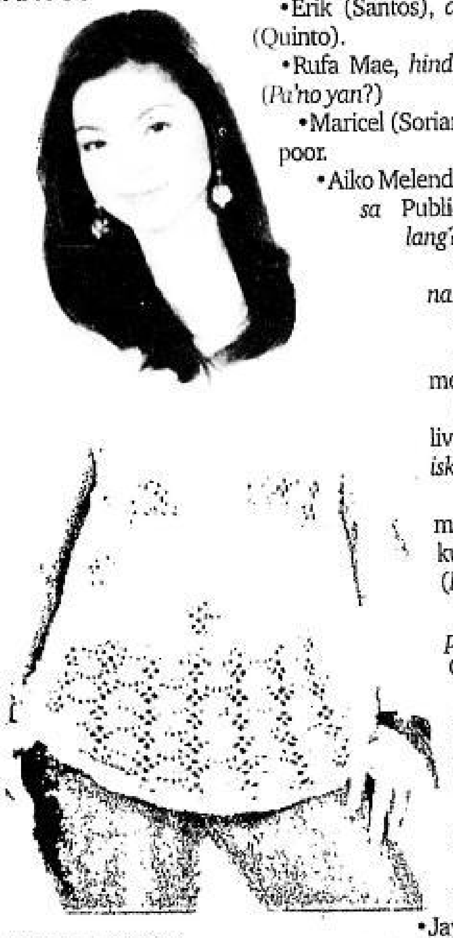
RUSHES SUNDAY

AIZA SEGUERRA

JESI CORCUERA

JUDY ANN SANTOS

ERIK SANTOS



ANGEL LOCSIN

Coming home

- Nora coming home. (Aunor, *sino fa?*)
- Nora to do 2 movies—one with Lav Diaz, another with Mario O'Hara.
- Marjorie (Barretto) at Mayor Echeverri, *inililihim lang ang relasyon?*
- *Kaululan ang sakyan ang topak ni* Kris Aquino. (This is from a former colleague. We say no more.)
- Kris Aquino, *nilait-lait sa katabaan.*
- KC (Concepcion) *mas magandang humalik kesa kay* Mandy (Moore), *sabi ni* Billy (Crawford). *(Sabay apologize kay Mega.)*
- Erik (Santos), *di pinakawalan si* Rufa Mae (Quinto).
- Rufa Mae, *hindi ma*-take *pakasalan si* Erik. (*Pa'no yan?*)
- Maricel (Soriano) helps build houses for the poor.
- Aiko Melendez *kumukuha ng* crash course *sa* Public Administration. (*Ngayon lang?*)
- *Anino ng sanggol, sunod nang sunod kay* Rita Avila?
- Rita gone crazy?
- Greta's (Gretchen Barretto) message not convincing.
- *Di totoong okay lang sa ka* live-in *ni* Gretchen *ang naging iskandalo niya.*
- How true? Kristine Hermosa and Tonyboy Cojuangco, kumain sa isang class na resto. (*E ano naman?*)
- Vilma (Santos) *walang panahong makipagbati kay* Goma (Richard Gomez).
- Lucy (Torres-Gomez), *ibubulgar ang mga babaeng na-link kay* Goma. (*Di kasali si* Ate Vi.)
- *Utol ni* Borgy (Manotoc) show biz *na rin.*
- LT, caught in the act *sina* Daboy, Osang.
- JayR, *pumayag rumampa nang hubo't hubad.*

MTRCB Rating ➤ GP
Angels
ANGEL OF MINE
ANGEL LOCSIN
INTRODUCING EUNICE "CHARMING" LAGUSAD
GINA ALAJAR
DADDY'S ANGEL
MARVIN AGUSTIN
NASH AGUAS
JOEL DANES III
ANGEL OF LOVE
JENNYLYN MERCADO PATRICK GARCIA
INTRODUCING ELLA CRUZ
MARK REYES
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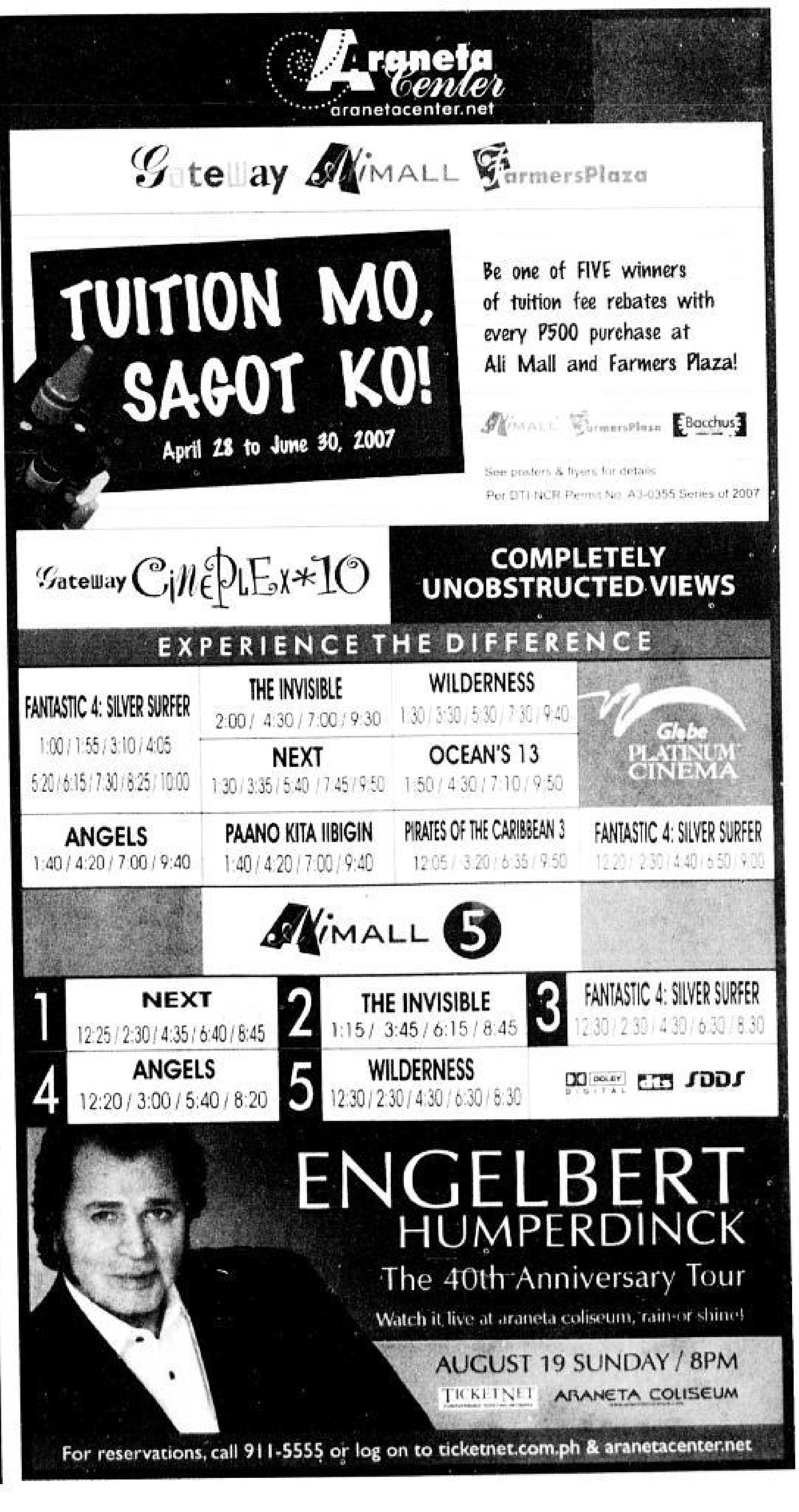
THEY FEED ON YOUR BRAIN
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF "THE EXORCIST"
Ashley JUDD
Harry CONNICK Jr.
BUG



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THE INVISIBLE 2:00 / 4:30 / 7:00 / 9:30
WILDERNESS 1:30 / 3:30 / 5:30 / 7:30 / 9:40
NEXT 1:30 / 3:35 / 5:40 / 7:45 / 9:50
OCEAN'S 13 1:50 / 4:30 / 7:10 / 9:50
Globe PLATINUM CINEMA
ANGELS 1:40 / 4:20 / 7:00 / 9:40
PAANO KITA IIBIGIN 1:40 / 4:20 / 7:00 / 9:40
PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 3 12:05 / 3:20 / 6:35 / 9:50
FANTASTIC 4: SILVER SURFER 12:20 / 2:30 / 4:40 / 6:50 / 9:00
Ali MALL 5
1 NEXT 12:25 / 2:30 / 4:35 / 6:40 / 8:45
2 THE INVISIBLE 1:15 / 3:45 / 6:15 / 8:45
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A flying hunk, a star-sized tantrum, and 'Monster Mom'

By the Inquirer Entertainment Staff

RUSHES SUNDAY

WHY IS SHE ACTING UP?

This major female star is throwing a tantrum because, the grapevine says, she has been receiving only half the talent fees of her male screen partners.

One of the male leads in question is years older than this young beauty, who got the same raw deal when she acted opposite a pretty guy her age.

Worse, even a female *contravida* in yet another project got paid more than the star did!

No wonder the girl's in a lousy mood and her manager has been consulting a lawyer.

We believe this is more of an issue for Gabriela than that very confusing battery case featuring a former beauty queen.

Stargazing at the airport

Spotted at the airport recently was a show biz hunk who's gender *chismis* columnists love to question.

As if fueling the naughty rumors, the hunk was with an openly gay guy in the departure area. They had matching carry-on bags! And they were bound for Amsterdam!

Wait, doesn't Amsterdam allow same-sex marriages? *Ay*, let's not jump to conclusions. But after the Nora-Norie *chiz*, anything is possible.

Note: The hunk refused to sign autographs or pose for snapshots with fans at the VIP lounge.

Suflada!

Casting coup

Annabelle Rama is reportedly still deep in discussion with film producer Lily Montervede on the title of her comeback movie under Regal Entertainment.

REGINE Velasquez, (right), with interior designer Cynthia Almario. MANDY NAVASERO

Mother Lily's preference is "Monster Mom," but Rama would have none of it, saying, "*Hindi naman ako* monster."

The latest report is that the title will be "Mama, Dong" (the second word being Visayan for "boy," and one of Rama's favorite expressions.)

As we go to press, we get this *latest* latest: "Monster Mom" wins. *Parang* "Mommie Dearest" crossed with "Monster House." Perfect.

Pricey kitchen

Regine Velasquez is apparently building a new house. She was seen shopping, with her interior designer Cynthia Almario, for an expensive kitchen system at Bontempi Casa, an Italian furniture center, at LRI Business Plaza on Reposo Street in Makati. Did she pick the one with the biggest price tag?

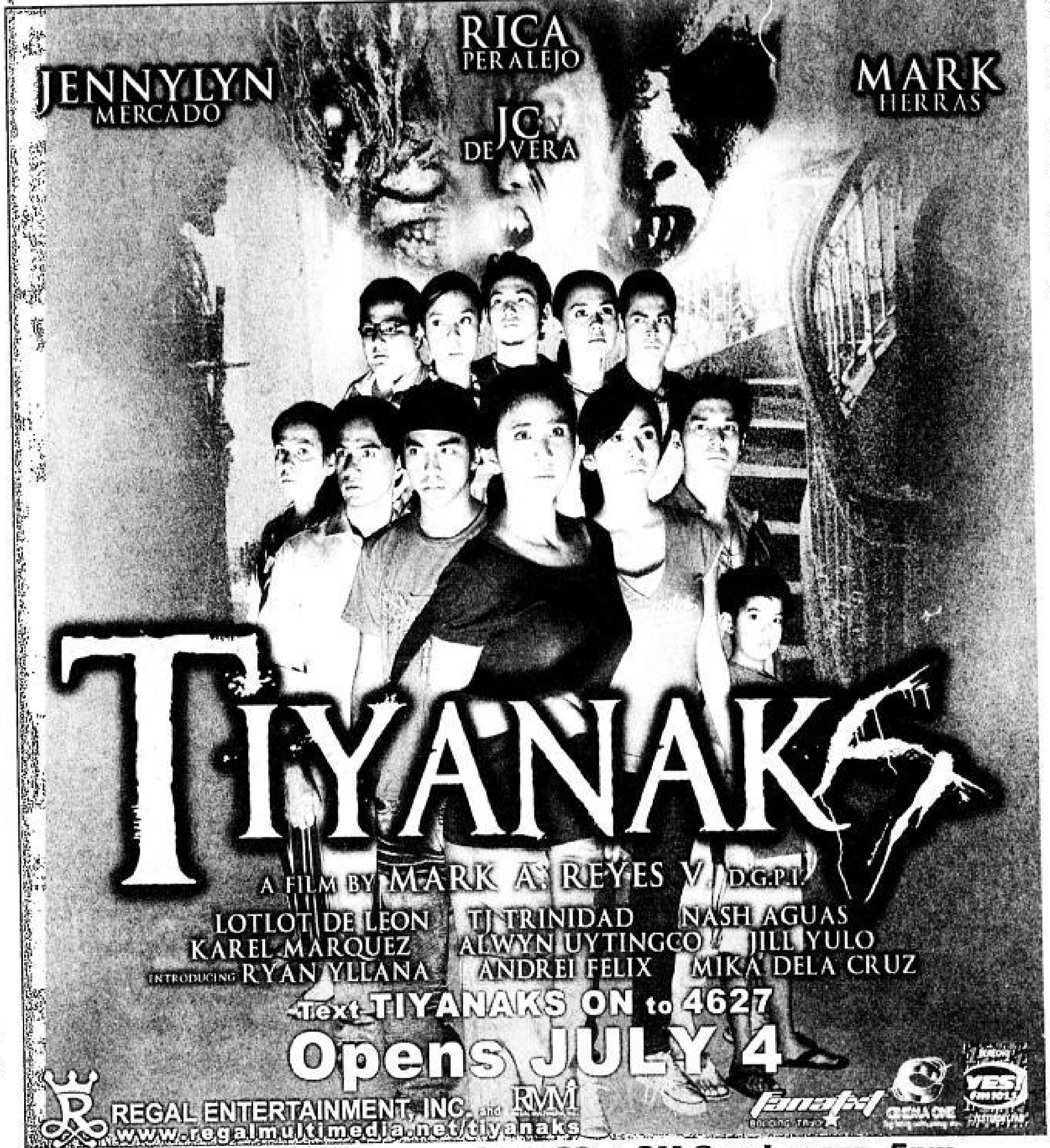
Writer, offended

A writer is "aghast" at how *sineseryes* and *sinenovelas* are "trivializing" old movies. Complains the author: "The network failed to give me credit and bastardized my work."

Ms Generous

Deemed too *sosyal* for comfort, this embattled beauty reportedly has a seldom-seen

FLYING/ H5



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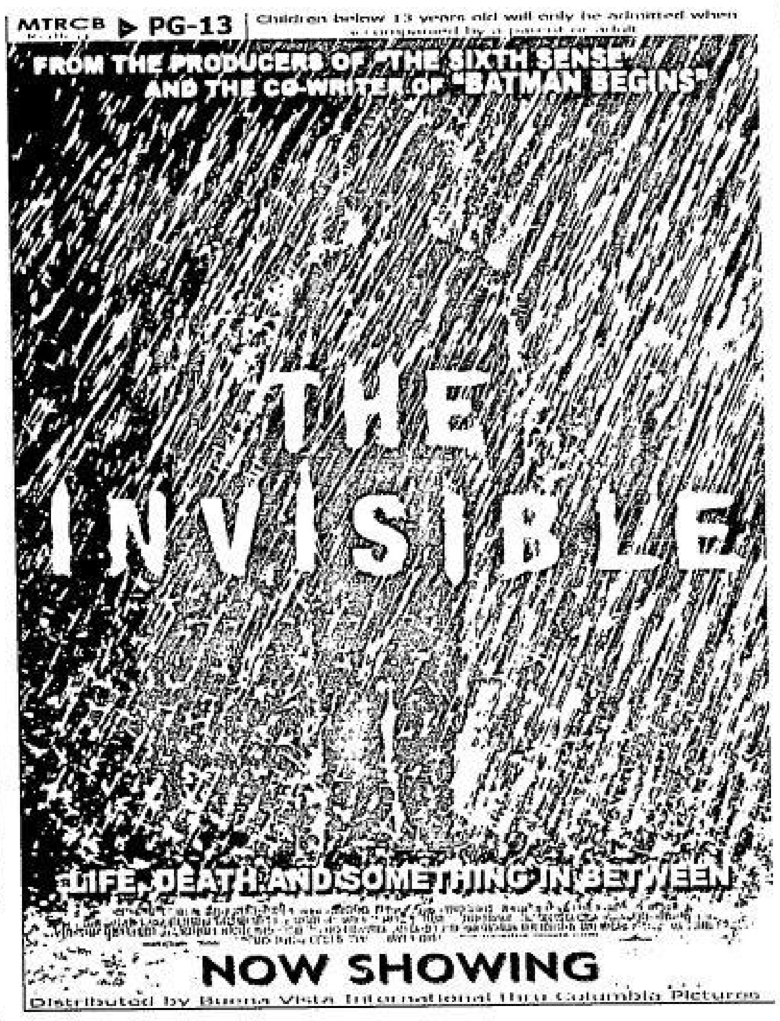

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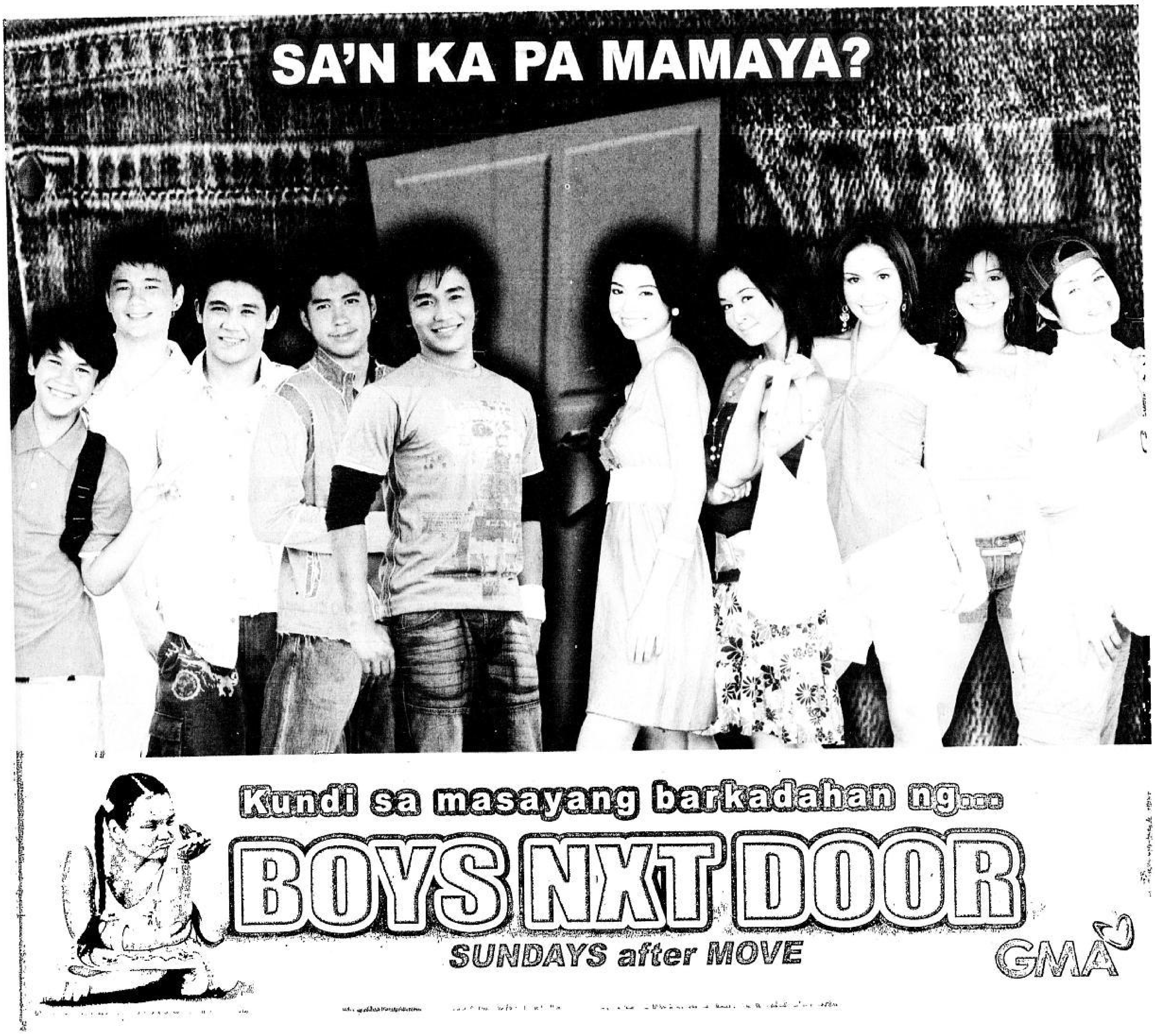

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(PDI - June 17, 24 & July 1, 2007)

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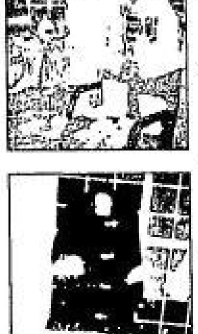

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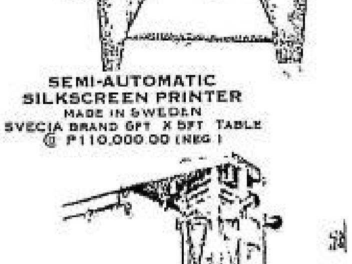

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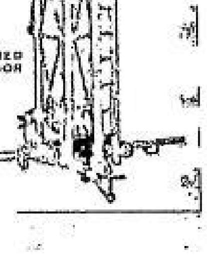

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that **CATHAY INSURANCE COMPANY, INC.** has voluntarily ceased from issuing new and renewal policies effective September 30, 2006. In relation thereto, the Insurance Commission appointed **Mr. Alex R. Gonzales** as Conservator effective December 18, 2006.

Parties having claim against the company are hereby notified to file their claims under oath with the Conservator not later than June 30, 2007, together with all supporting documents and/or relevant proofs detailing the character, basis and amount of each and every claim, directly with the appointed Conservator either personally or by mail at the company's business address at 10th Floor, Tytana Plaza Bldg., Plaza Lorenzo Ruiz, Binondo, Manila for consideration in its eventual liquidation pursuant to pertinent provisions of the Insurance Code, as amended. CLAIMS FILED AFTER JUNE 30, 2007 SHALL ONLY BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE REMAINING ASSETS IF ANY, AFTER SETTLEMENT OF ALL CLAIMS SUBMITTED WITHIN THE DEADLINE.

(Sgd.) **EVANGELINE CRISOSTOMO-ESCOBILLO**
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(PDI--June 10, 17 & 24, 2007)

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CREDIT CARDS HONORED
RUBBERVOLT 36 West Av QC
115 MINDANAO AV 3716783
Ofc Celpn 0915-987-0603

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

VANS 9226702 9214535

CAR LOAN

1% Car Lending 6560140
United Tree Car Loan Corp.

1% Easy Car Loan 4112547/48

1% Sangla ur Car 5344441

1% w/out taking car 5315577

1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748765

1.5% easy carloan 7815352/55

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

2% W/O TAKING CAR 7880183-84

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Pacific Island Services, Inc. (PISI) hereby gives notice that **MR. ROMEO DELA ROSA SANTIAGO** whose photograph appears below, is no longer connected with Pacific Island Services, Inc. (PISI) or any of its affiliates in any capacity.

Any transaction entered into, or dealth with by the aforestated personnel on behalf of PISI or its affiliates shall not be honored.

15 June 2007, Makati City

THE MANAGEMENT
Pacific Island Services, Inc. (PISI)
5th Floor Prudential Bank Bldg.,
6787 Ayala Avenue, Makati City,
Metro Manila

(PDI--June 24, 2007)

CAR LOAN

2% w/out taking car 7262780

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

BILLIARDS

Sale/Rental/Servce 8014494

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

YAMAHA GRAND & UPRIGHT PIANOS: TERMS -T7213124

WANTED TO BUY

BUY • SELL • PAWN
ROLEX
& other SWISS SWATCHES
JEWELRY
DIAMONDS
BEST PRICE
SPOT CASH
8341572
8316712

WE BUY at HIGH PRICE
ROLEX
HIS & HERS Watch Center
5646593 . 5897041
0917-8473744
Room 603
Manila Pavilion Hotel
and
GoldCrest Bldg.
Glorietta-2, Makati

PROFESSIONAL & CREDIBLE
PAWN*BUY*SELL
WATCHES
Jewelry & Diamonds
BEST APPRAISAL
Secondo Glorietta 1
Tel# 894-0282
Agencia de Makati
Tel# 889-7956

PETS

DOG TRAINER 0919-7219020

DOG TRAINING Tel.475-0052

Labrador pup choco T4149426

MINPIN CHOCO T5227017

SHIHTZU 2mos 09285056374

MISCELLANEOUS

Elect wheelchair 09178227788

IRENEVILLE SUBD SUCAT 1053 sqm 9M 9178227788

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

CAREGIVER COURSE
Study Now Pay Later T3026893
0917-7924104, 0922-8148322

AUCTION SALE

C.Y. Lopez Pawnshop Inc.
#7611 Caeg Bldg., dela Rosa St., Makati City; #602 JP Rizal St. Makati City; #15 Gen Santos Ave., Lower Bicutan Taguig City; Real St. Almanza Uno Las Pinas City will hold an Auction Sale on June 30, 2007 at 9:00 AM. Including all items pawned up to December 2006 V. Zamora Jr. Lic. Auctioneer
(PDI-June 24, 2007)

MUNOZ-BRIONES PAWNSHOP
Auction-July 09, 2007
All unredeemed articles
from February 1-28, 2007
354 Roosevelt Ave QC 9AM
Dela Rosa Makati 10AM
VZamora-Auctioneer

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the esate of late CONCEPCION M. MAYO has been extrajudicially settled among their heirs before Notary Public Antonio D. Figueroa of Marikina City Per Page No. 277,Doc.No. 57 Book No. XXX,Series 2007
(PDI June 10,17,24,2007)

Notice is Hereby Given that the estate of the late MERCEDES C. CANLAS was Extrajudicially settled among her heirs as Per Doc No. 404 Page No. 82 Book No. 111 Series of 2007 Under Notary Public Atty. RENATO R. DEVERA of Quezon City
(PDI-June 24 July 1 & 8'07)

Notice is hereby given that estate of the late CAPTAIN JAVIER BADIOLA MARMOL was extrajudicially settled among his hiers Mrs Arsenia Ramos Marmol, Marc Jayson Marmol, Anthony Edwards Marmol, Czarine Fatima Marmol as per Doc No. 287; Page No. 58; Book No. 17; Series of 2007 under notary public of Atty Pablo B. Ajesta of Quezon City
(PDI-June 24,July 1 & 8,2007)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that APM Cert.# 25438, OPM Cert.# 258342 issued to MDR SECURITIES INC. has been lost. If no contest is received, new certificates will be issued. (PDI- June 24, July 1 & 8, 2007)

Notice is hereby given that Cebu Holdings, Inc. Stock Cert. No. 00023920 with 6,914 shares, Stock Cert. No. 00036055 with 3,457 shares and Stock Cert. No. 00065629 with 2,592 shares all issued to Frederick F. Salandanan were lost. If no contest received, new certificates will be issued.
(PDI-June 10, 17 & 24, 2007)

FOR SALE
SODIUM ASCORBATE
POWDER & CAPSULE

NEEDED: DEALERS & DISTRIBUTORS CALL
☎(632) 829-7605; 826-7922; 807-8384
(0906) 308-3446; (0910) 282-0275

JOB Market
Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

Notice to Public

JOVANNE M. SINAMBAN
A resident of
0086 San Jose, Magalang, Pampanga

The above person has been accused of the crime of ESTAFA in Criminal Cases Nos. 06-2459 to 06-2466 and 06-2468 to 06-2476 before Branch 61 RTC of Angeles City.

Warrant of Arrest has been issued.
A reward will be given to anyone who can provide information leading to his arrest.

Please call any of the following numbers:
(045) 888-25-74/ (045) 888-25-79 & (045) 888-45-71

(PDI – June 24, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF SORSOGON

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

Date: June 24, 2007
Contract ID No.: SP-113-IN-01, 03, 04 and 05
World Bank Loan No. 4446 PH

1. The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of Local Government Finance and Development and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the Contract for the *Construction and Repair of Health Facilities (Package 1, 3, 4 and 5)*. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the *Guidelines Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits.*
2. The *Provincial Government of Sorsogon* invites sealed bids from eligible sources for the Construction and Repair of the following:
   - Package I
     1. Extension and Repair of OR/DR Complex-Donsol District Hospital
     2. Construction of Birthing Facility-Pilar RHU
   - Package III
     1. Repair of Bacon RHU and Construction of Birthing Facility-Bacon District, Sorsogon City
     2. Construction of Birthing Facility-Juban RHU
     3. Construction of Birthing Facility-Magallanes District Hospital
   - Package IV
     1. Construction of Birthing Facility-Bulan Municipal Hospital
     2. Completion of OPD Building and Construction of Social Hygiene Clinic-Matnog Medicare Hospital
     3. Construction of Birthing Facility-RHU Sta, Magdalena, Sorsogon
   - Package V
     1. Rehabilitation of Irosin District Hospital
3. Bidding documents may be purchased starting *June 25, 2007-July 24, 2007* at *BAC Office, PGSO Building Capitol Compound, Sorsogon City* upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of *Four Thousand Pesos (Php 4,000.00) for each package* or its equivalent in a freely convertible currency. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
4. Bids shall be valid for a period of *ninety (90) days* after bid opening and must be accompanied by bid security of:
   Package 1: One Hundred Ninety Two Thousand Pesos (Php 192,000.00)
   Package 3: Two Hundred Fifty Three Thousand Pesos (Php 253,000.00)
   Package 4: Two Hundred Fifty Five Thousand Pesos (Php 255,000.00)
   Package 5: Two Hundred Ninety Four Thousand Pesos (Php 294,000.00)
   in a form of cash, certified check, bank guarantee or its equivalent in a convertible currency and shall be delivered to the *BAC Office, PGSO Building Capitol Compound Sorsogon City on or before July 24, 2007, 10:00 a.m.* at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.
5. The Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during post qualification. The **Estimated Project Cost** for the subproject is:
   Package 1: *Seven Million Seven Hundred Twelve Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Seven Pesos and 03/100 (Php 7,712,257.03)*
   Package 3: *Ten Million One Hundred Twenty Seven Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Two Pesos and 30/100 (Php 10,127,252.30)*
   Package 4: *Ten Million Two Hundred Thirty Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty Nine Pesos and 64/100 (Php 10,230,959.64)*
   Package 5: *Eleven Million Seven Hundred Seventy One Thousand Five Hundred Ninety Five Pesos and 99/100 (Php 11,771,595.99)*
6. A pre-bid conference will be held at *10:00 A.M., July 10, 2007* at the *BAC Office, PGSO Building Capitol Compound Sorsogon City.*

(Sgd.) TERESITA D. PALADIN
BAC Chairman

(PDI – June 24, 2007)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that Loyola Plans Cons. Inc. CN#101930401-0 •0119093-3•0094694-9 & CFP#21053686;15277;12125 was declared lost by EDNA G. DE PEDRO.
(PDI-June 24, July 1 & 8, 2007)

Notice of loss of A. Soriano Corp Stock Cert#397377 w/ 50,000 shares issued to RODERICK DY. If no contest is received, new certificate will be issued.
(PDI - June 24, July 1 & 8, 2007)

DEALERSHIP

P99 Electro Reload Agent Smart SUN Globe, Intnl, Games 4977856

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BOOKKEEPER 23-30 yrs old Acctg Grad lives nr Comm QC MKTG ASST 23-30 yrs old graduate of any Bussiness course Call 931-3643

CALL CENTER AGENTS!18-30K 5890483 / 09062075952 ZARA

CAREGIVER • 3026893

Female Acctng Clerk 30yrs old below with or w/o exp. Tel. 941-0472 / 948-1665

Female Marketing Secretary college graduate computer literate pleasing personality 4261289 Fely

MANICURIST (EXPERIENCE) LOOK 4 JOYCE TEL 242-7776 nailscorp@yahoo.com

---

WANTED
LICENSED PHARMACISTS
- Female
- With or without experience
- Preferably residents of QC, Metro Manila and Bulacan

ACCOUNTING GRADUATES
- Female, not more than 30 years old
- Preferably single
- Preferably residents of Quezon City and neighboring areas

APPLY IN PERSON WITH RESUMÉ AND T.O.R. AT:
SAVE MORE DRUG
1910 Don Jose Street, Don Antonio Heights Subdivision,
Commonwealth Ave., Quezon City
Tel. No.: 932-49-41 / 931-00-56
9:00 - 11:00 AM / 1:30-4:00 PM (MONS-SATS.)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Makati I District
Vacant Position
Teacher III
Item No.
OSEC-DECSB TCHR 3-35067
Educational Qualifications
BEE Graduate Licensure
Examination for
Teachers w/MA units

MEDTECH License 4398348

MEDTECH XRTECH 521-0531

PHARMACIST Call 9300749

STAFF COLLECTORS
BASIC+COMMISSION QC
CALL CES 9266216 / 9208220

Store Supervisor / Cashier / Sales Staff Age 21-35 College Level Pleasing Personality Knows POS w/ Exp • Call 534-6687

ACCTG STAFF 30BLW BSA NEAR LAS PINAS 8752690

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

WANTED OFFICE
SECRETARY
w/good knowledge in travel agency business Please call Tel. #809-0024/25 3-H West Gate Tower Building Investment Drive Alabang, Muntinlupa City, Metro Manila

MALE

2,000 Men Workers Wanted
(20-30 years old)
Reply to: evensen|@yahoo.ca

BLDG. ELECTRICIAN w/ NBI WELDER call 4972933

MALE/FEMALE

Male/Female
Need Acct. Clerk/Logistics
w/3yrs. experience
telefax 8390926/8371102
rwhite@yahoo.com.au

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino
cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
FFCCCII (Naga Hope Christian High School) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Huijuan Lu	Teacher
FFCCCII (Oro Christian Grace School) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Xiuqin Lin	Teacher
FFCCCII (Angeles Lip Lin School) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Xihua Chen	Teacher
FFCCCII (Angeles Lip Lin School) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Yanfang Xu	Teacher
FFCCCII (Olongapo Anglo Cultural School, Inc.) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Xinxin Hu	Teacher
FFCCCII (Olongapo Anglo Cultural School, Inc.) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Jinghua Lu	Teacher
FFCCCII (Naga Hope Christian High School) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Shuhui Zeng	Teacher
FFCCCII (Naga Hope Christian School) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Xiaofeng Lin	Teacher
FFCCCII (Oro Christian Grace School) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Ting Hong	Teacher
FFCCCII (Oro Christian Grace School) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Yingying Lin	Teacher
FFCCCII (Cebu Cherish School) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Yan Zeng	Teacher
FFCCCII (Cebu Cherish School) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Chuanzhu Li	Teacher
FFCCCII (Cebu Cherish School) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Yuemo Wei	Teacher
FFCCCII (Cebu Eastern College) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Lili Lin	Teacher
FFCCCII (Cebu Eastern College) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Ping Zhou	Teacher
FFCCCII (Cebu Eastern College) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Xiaoying Yang	Teacher
FFCCCII (Cebu Eastern College) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Pengqiu Li	Teacher
FFCCCII (Cebu Childlink Learning Center) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Yanfang Wu	Teacher
FFCCCII (Cebu Childlink Learning Center) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Xufen Chen	Teacher
FFCCCII (Bacolod Tay Tung School) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Hua Li	Teacher
FFCCCII (Bacolod Tay Tung High School) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Caiyun Yan	Teacher
FFCCCII (Bacolod Tay Tung High School) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Chao Wang	Teacher
FFCCCII (Bacolod Tay Tung High School) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Fengfeng Lin	Teacher
FFCCCII (Bacolod Tay Tung High School) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Lili Yuan	Teacher
FFCCCII (Bacolod Tay Tung High School) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Ling Lin	Teacher
FFCCCII (Iloilo Scholastic Academy) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Bing Lin	Teacher
FFCCCII (Angeles Lip Lin School) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Xuefeng Zhao	Teacher
FFCCCII (Angeles Lip Lin School) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Huiqing Xie	Teacher
FFCCCII (Angeles Lip Lin School) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Qian Zhang	Teacher
FFCCCII (Pangasinan Universal Institute) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Qiliang You	Teacher
FFCCCII (Pangasinan Universal Institute) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Xiahong Chen	Teacher
FFCCCII (Pangasinan Universal Institute) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Jianhui Chen	Teacher
FFCCCII (Pangasinan Universal Institute) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Yao Chen	Teacher
FFCCCII (Pangasinan Universal Institute) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Jianming Shi	Teacher
FFCCCII (Pangasinan Universal Institute) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Xiuying Huang	Teacher
FFCCCII (Baguio Patriotic High School) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Yinbin Qi	Teacher
FFCCCII (Baguio Patriotic High School) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Wei Liu	Teacher
FFCCCII (Baguio Patriotic High School) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Minyan Wang	Teacher
FFCCCII (Baguio Patriotic High School) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Honghong Wu	Teacher
FFCCCII (Baguio Patriotic High School) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Xujing Li	Teacher
FFCCCII (Baguio Patriotic High School) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Yue Cheng	Teacher
FFCCCII (La Union Cultural Institute) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Xu Yao	Teacher
FFCCCII (Jubilee Christian Academy) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Xiaoqing Zhang	Teacher
FFCCCII (Tarlac Bayanihan Institute) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Xiaoying Xu	Teacher
FFCCCII (Tarlac Bayanihan Institute) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Wumei Chen	Teacher
FFCCCII (Tarlac Bayanihan Institute) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Yijuan Lin	Teacher
FFCCCII (Tarlac Bayanihan Institute) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Jingjing Lin	Teacher
FFCCCII (Tarlac Bayanihan Institute) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Xuehong Chen	Teacher
FFCCCII (Tarlac Bayanihan Institute) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Guixian Lin	Teacher
FFCCCII (Phil. Institute of Quezon City) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Chao Liu	Teacher
FFCCCII (Phil Institute of Quezon City) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Guichun Ye	Teacher
FFCCCII (Paco Citizen Academy Foundation) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Liyu Huang	Teacher
FFCCCII (Paco Citizen Academy Foundation) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Qin Weng	Teacher
FFCCCII (Manila Patriotic School) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Chun Lin	Teacher
FFCCCII (Manila Patriotic School) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	He Yu	Teacher
FFCCCII (La Union Cultural Institute) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Ting Chen	Teacher
FFCCCII (La Union Cultural Institute) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Caixia Lin	Teacher
FFCCCII (Bacolod Tay Tung High School) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Guilu Huang	Teacher
FFCCCII (Batangas Kipsi Elementary School) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Azhen Sun	Teacher
FFCCCII (Batangas Kipsi Elementary School) 6/F Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo St., Binondo, Manila	Qingqing Xu	Teacher

If you have any information/objection to the abovementioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

The DOLE conducts free seminar on Labor-Human Relations and Productivity. For more information, please call 339-2013 & 303-5920.

LOURDES M. TRASMONTE
Regional Director

(PDI – June 24, 2007)

ROSARIO (CHARITO) LOBREGAT vda de LEGARDA

falleciò el 21 de Junio 2007 a los 93 años despues de recibir los santos sacramentos

Sus hijos, **Filomena, Jaime, Celso, Alejandro (†), Maria Teresa, Maria Antonia, Jose Jr., Rosario, Benito y Eduardo**; nueras **Maria Victoria, Beatrice, Alda, Maria Elena y Rosalita**; yernos, **Oreste, Boedi, Miguel y André**; nietos y biznietos ruegan al piadoso lector una oraciòn por su eterno descanso.

Estarà de cuerpo presente en la residencia de la familia –

589 Manga Avenue, Sta. Mesa, Manila

Una misa se celebrarà a las 10:00 a.m. el Lunes 25 de Junio en la misma residencia. La Cremación tendrà lugar despues de la misa.

Eight Years Ago Today

Our Beloved Mama

MARIA KOO TAN

Joined the Lord in Eternal Rest

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be celebrated in her memory and that of our Papa, Salvador Tan Siong Chang, today at the following churches:

Catarman Cathedral	5:15 AM
Mary The Queen (Greenhills)	6:00 PM
Sanctuario de San Jose (Greenhills)	6:15 PM
Divine Word Seminary	6:00 PM
Chapel of the Eucharistic Lord, Megamall	12:15 NN
St. Francis Church (Mandaluyong)	8:00 AM
St. Andrew, The Apostle Chapel, Bel-Air, Makati	7:30 PM

Thank you once again for your prayers and well wishes.

Edward, Robert & **Jenny, Ronnie** (✞) & **Marge, Renan** & **Iris, Alex** & **Milly, Stanley** & **Jen, Sandy** and **Steve, Eddie** & **Noah, Doy, Square** & **Kaye** & **Candice, Aida** & **Albert** (Simtoco), **Arvin** & **Malou, Archie** & **Barbie,** & **Aris, Tommy** & **Marge, Bernice, Adrian** & **Melissa, Eday** & **Boy** (Gustilo) & **Gail, Nonoy** & **Grace, Trisha, Felicity, Valerie, Noynoy** & **Borgy** and great grandchildren.

In Loving Memory of

ROSEMARY D. NEBRAO – GARCIA

5 February 1964 – 15 May 2007

Maryknoll GS 1978, HS 1982, College 1986 – BS EP

this Sunday, the 24th of June 2007, the 40th day of her passing, masses are offered for the repose of her soul at:

Metropolitan Cathedral, La Purisisma, Zamboanga City	6:00am
Sta. Maria Parish Church, Zamboanga City	6:00am
St. Ignatius de Loyola Parish Church, Tetuan, Zamboanga City	6:00am
St. Augustine Cathedral, Cagayan de Oro City	6:00am
San Guillermo Parish Church, Iponan, Cagayan de Oro City	6:00am
Archdiocesan Shrine of St. Joseph, Aurora Blvd., Quezon City	6:00am
Sta. Maria della Strada, Loyola Heights, Quezon City	6:00am

"Thank you for your prayers."

Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing
(2 Timothy 4:8)

Message of Thanks

*We, the **R. Lim Joseph Family - Robert & Ida, Ralph & Babot, Ronald & Melissa, Raymond & Reggie** together with our children, would like to express our deepest thanks to our relatives, friends and business associates who consoled and celebrated with us the life our our beloved Mother,*

Florecita Favis Lim vda de Joseph "CITA"

who returned to our Creator last June 11, 2007.

Our mother was our guiding light, our source of inspiration.

A compassionate woman, she was God's gift to humanity. She was bestowed with a lot of titles, Gintong Ina Awardee, a beauty queen, a philanthropist but the most important title of all she was mother and grandmother to us.

We love you so much and we will keep you in our hearts forever...

Ceferino E. Eugenio

3 February 1917 – 22 June 2007

Lolo lived a full life. After graduating from the University of the Philippines, he was among the top three of the accountancy board examinees of 1937, and taught at Far Eastern University. He was proud to be one of the Central Bank's original '49ers and went on to the World Bank where he eventually retired. With much relish, he knew how to enjoy his favorite food, a great fight by Elorde or Pacquiao, or a good laugh.

But the bottom line is he loved his children Franklin & Daisy, Bienvenido & Brenda and Eduardo & Sherry; grandchildren Ramon & Monica, Carlos & Tina, Rina & Louie, and Joe & Courtney, Chris & Laurie, Michael and Marc; great-grandchildren Rafael, Paolo, Cristina, & Franco, and Kylie & Devin. There was no grandfather more doting than he.

His ashes will be sent shortly to Las Vegas, Nevada for interment. While we are confident, kindly say a little prayer that all goes well at his final Audit. He will sorely be missed.

> **"Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again."**
>
> — 2 Corinthians 5:4-5

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

ELOISA "Lucy" YAP CHINCUANCO

7 August 1945 – 7 June 2007
from the City of San Fernando, Pampanga

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to our relatives, friends and pious readers, who in countless ways, condoled with and provided us strength and comfort during the time of our bereavement.

May God grant you abundant blessings for your thoughtfulness.

For your Classified and Obituary Ads please call **637-2008**

CLASSIFIEDS

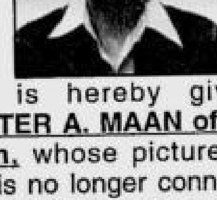
NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that **MR. EDWIN DE GUZMAN,** whose picture appears above, is no longer connected with **MASAITO DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION** since March 19, 2007.

Any transaction entered into by Mr. de Guzman after the said date shall not be honored by the company.

(PDI – June 24, 2007)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



Notice is hereby given that **MS. ESTER A. MAAN of Tayabas, Quezon,** whose picture appears above, is no longer connected with **Calmar Land Development Corp.** with address Maharlika Highway, Brgy. Kanlurang Mayao, Lucena City effective as of **June 07, 2007.**

Thus, any transaction entered into by said person after said date with any person or customer of the company shall not be honored.

(PDI--June 24, 2007)

Notify family and friends of a loved one who had just passed away.
We accept death notices, announcing details of the person's wake and interment. For a very affordable fee you can reach out to everyone who have been a part of the life of your dearly departed. For more information, you may contact Inquirer Classifieds at (02)897 8425.

CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is given to the public that (Ms.) **SHIELA T. DE GUZMAN** is no longer connected with Datablitz Inc. as Sales Assistant effective August 31, 2006. Her termination from her service is pending before the NLRC, DOLE. Meanwhile, any transaction entered into by the above person from August 31, 2006 onward will not be honored by her former employer.

(PDI--June 24, 2007)

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Juanito San Jose Cruz

of Ibayo, Marilao, Bulacan

General Manager, Balikbayan Handicrafts

Partner, Bluer Than Blue Joint Ventures Co.
(Regalong Pambahay, EGG, Simplejoys)

Peacefully joined our Lord on June 22, 2007 at the age of 65.

His loving wife **Rita**, children **Mary Ann** and **Jonathan** with **Florence**, father **Lino**† and mother **Martina**, brothers and sisters-in-law **Jorge** and **Rosalinda**, **Generoso** and **Perlita**, nieces and nephews, **Marie**, **Ser Anthony**, **Jennifer**, and **Michael**, together with other families of **Cruz** and **Wong** clans, would like to express their sincere gratitude to all, who supported and offered prayers for him during his final days, and request relatives and friends to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at his residence.
Please omit flowers.

Interment will be on Tuesday, June 26, 2007, at Manila Memorial Park. We will leave the residence at 8:30 a.m. to celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at 9:00 a.m. in Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Notify family and friends of a loved one who had just passed away.

We accept death notices, announcing details of the person's wake and interment. For a very affordable fee you can reach out to everyone who have been a part of the life of your dearly departed.

For more information, you may contact Inquirer Classifieds at (02)897 8425.

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635-0219; 635-0220

Ester A. Araneta

'Wawa'

March 29, 1911 - June 9, 2007

We, her family, are deeply touched and truly grateful
for your expressions of sympathy and concern.
Thank you most especially for your prayers.
These have been our greatest source of consolation.

We hope that you will continue to remember Wawa
in your prayers.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:16

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...
INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)
WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and bank-to-bank payments.

Operation: UPrising

THE UP MANILA UNIVERSITY STUDENT COUNCIL AND THE MU SIGMA Fraternity and Sorority, in cooperation with the Pi Sigma Fraternity, will be presenting Operation: UPrising at the Tipunan (Paz Mendoza) Parking Lot, College of Medicine on June 29, 6 p.m. to 12 a.m. This youth awareness concert will be highlighted by a Papel at Panulat Drive, a campaign to provide school supplies such as pencils, notebooks and writing paper for the students of the less fortunate elementary schools in the Metro Manila area, as well as books for the UP Health Sciences Center in Palo, Leyte. The bands that will be performing include: Sugarfree, Cambio, Monsterbot, The Wuds, Datu's Tribe, Peryodiko, Bandang Shirley, Kontra-gapi, Karatula, Soul Collage, Weeband, Spoon, and various college bands. This concert is made possible by the following sponsors: Sigma Delta Pi Sorority, UP Manila Debate Circle, TGI Friday's, Pepsi, Mexicali, San Miguel Food Corp, and official media partners The Philippine Daily Inquirer and Nu107.

15th Annual Strategic Issues Conference

FIRST LIFE'S PETER COYIUTO AND AYALA LIFE'S EMIL DE QUIROS JR. co-chair the Host Committee of the 15th Annual Strategic Issues Conference, organized by Loma and Limra International at the Shangri-La's Mactan Island Resort & Spa, Cebu on June 24-26, to discuss critical organization and industry practices. This global industry conference is designed around the theme Charting Your Next Move, and deals on valuable insights on how companies can stay competitive in a rapidly changing industry, propelled by increasing global competition. Finance Secretary Margarito B. Teves and Insurance Commissioner Evangeline C. Escobillo will grace the event with Gawad Kalinga's Antonio Meloto delivering the closing keynote address. They will be joined by experts from Asia Pacific/Oceania region's insurance and financial services companies. The conference will focus on issues affecting the industry in the region.

1st Manila Food and Beverage Expo

SET YOUR FOOT AT THE WORLD TRADE CENTER ON JUNE 24-27, AND STUFF yourself with various food pleasures from each participating country at the first-ever Manila Food and Beverage Expo. Mafbex, the first quality food and beverage show dedicated to suppliers, distributors, manufacturers, retailers and small scale players in the food service industry, aims to meet the rising demand of the industry and offers Pinoy food enthusiasts everything that will make them salivate even more. The four-day expo showcases international food enchantments from countries like Hong Kong, Thailand and Malaysia. Learn how to create noodles and curries the authentic way. Taste the difference of the real deal. For inquiries, please call Worldbex Services International at tel. no. (02)531-6350/74 or 534-3615 or fax (02)533-2026 or e-mail at info@worldbex.com.

Community Day of Buklod ng Pag-ibig

THE ANNUAL OBSERVANCE OF COMMUNITY DAY OF BUKLOD NG PAG-IBIG this year on June 24 will mark the tenth year death anniversary of Father Pascual H. Adorable, SJ, the founder of Buklod ng Pag-ibig Community. Elders and members will visit Father Adorable's grave at 3 p.m. at the Sacred Heart Novitiate in Novaliches to pay their respects to an extraordinarily-gifted Jesuit priest who pioneered the Charismatic Movement and the Marriage Encounter Retreats in the Philippines in the mid-70s. Father Adorable's amazing gift of healing cured hundreds of people of their physical, spiritual and psychological infirmities, not only in the Philippines, but also in the US, Canada, Hongkong, Malaysia and other countries. Father Adorable, the spiritual director of Buklod ng Pag-ibig Communities and Bukas Loob sa Diyos for many years, started Buklod's healing ministry. Buklod ng Pag-ibig carried this on till the present even after Father Adorable died on June 24, 1997. At 5 p.m., Holy Mass will be celebrated by Father Domie Guzman, Buklod's spiritual director. After the Mass will be the blessing of the Center's roof by Father Domie. It must be recalled that the completion of the repair of this roof was made possible by the funds raised from the musical concert held on June 24, 2006 entitled "Love and Laughter" and the donation of Elder Elsa Payumo's entire prize money of P 1.127 million from the "Deal or No Deal" TV game program. Kris Aquino has been invited to be the special guest at the blessing. Dinner at the BNP Center for all members and guests will cap the day's activities.

Big Apple Express Spa joins franchise show

BIG APPLE EXPRESS SPA, A MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF FILIPINO Franchisers Inc (Affi), will join the Franchise Fever, the 6th Filipino Franchise Show on July 6-8 at the SM Megatrade Hall. An Affi and Spa Association of the Philippines member, Big Apple currently has branches at the Gateway Mall, SM Mall of Asia, and SM Lipa. A few more branches are set to open in 2007. The concept of the express spa was pioneered by Big Apple in response to the need to make the benefits of wellness services accessible to the greater public. Big Apple reinvents the concept of the spa by deviating from the usual perks offered in full service spas but without compromising on the quality of experience and services delivered. During the show, Big Apple's booth number is C-51. The proprietors will be on hand to explain how a Big Apple franchise can become a viable and lucrative investment. The business only needs minimal space and less than a million capital outlay to start. For inquiries, interested parties may call Big Apple franchise director Victor Fernando at 631-1697.

Asean Energy Business Forum

ONCE AGAIN, ENERGY GETS CENTER STAGE IN THE PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES of Leverage International (Consultants) in the next three months. On Aug 22-24, at Shangri-La Hotel in Singapore, Leverage and Jakarta-based Asean Centre for Energy (ACE), will gather energy project developers, the financial community, government officials, and executives of energy companies involved in the development of energy and the power sector in the Asean region. The occasion is the Asean Energy Business Forum (AEBF), an annual business forum to address issues affecting the region's energy sector. Here in Manila on Sept. 19-21, Leverage with its Singapore event partner Interfama Fairs & Exhibitions Pte Ltd will present the 6th presentation of PowerTrends international exhibition and conference in cooperation with the Department of Energy (DOE) and the National Power Corp. As the country grapples with soaring oil prices and its adverse impact on the economy, environment-friendly fuels will be prominently featured at PowerTrends in line with DOE's program to promote energy independence to spur economic growth in off-grid areas. More details about Leverage and the exhibits may be obtained through website: www.leverageinternational.com; e-mail: leverage@leverageinternational.com; phone 810-1389 or 818-6828; or fax 810-1594.

Affordable local travel packages

WANT TO SEE MORE OF THE PHILIPPINES ON A BUDGET? THEN CHECK OUT these offers by Philippines Engrande Tours. The agency tied up with Philippine Airlines air fare promo and came out with exciting travel packages for Palawan, Bohol, Davao, and Camiguin. Go on a Palawan adventure on July 6 to 8 for only P14,800 per person. Included in this package are roundtrip PAL airfare, two nights at Skylight Hotel, daily breakfasts and two picnic lunches, Underground River Cave tour, Honda Bay Island Hopping and City Tour, and roundtrip airport transfers. On the same amount, rediscover Bohol Island on July 15 to 17. Bohol Island travel package includes roundtrip PAL airfare, two nights at Bohold Divers Beach Resort, daily breakfasts, Bohol Countryside Tour with buffet lunch, and roundtrip airport transfers. For 14,800, participate in Kadayawan sa Dabaw, Davao's Grand Festival on Aug. 16 to 19. Offer includes roundtrip PAL airfare, three nights at Mandaya Hotel, daily breakfasts, Davao's City and countryside tour with lunch, Kadayawan street float parade, fruits shopping, and roundtrip air transfers. Witness the famous Bacolod Masskara Festival on Oct. 18 to 21 for only P14,800 per person. Inclusions are roundtrip PAL airfare, three nights at a hotel, daily breakfast, city and countryside tour with lunch, street and float parade, fruits shopping, and roundtrip airport transfers. Join Lansones Festival in Camiguin Island and Cagayan de Oro for only P18,800 per person. Travel package includes roundtrip PAL airfare, two nights at Bahay Bakayunan Resort and one night at Courtyard Hotel, Cagayan de Oro, daily breakfast, roundtrip land and sea transfers, Camiguin Island tour, tour of Gardens of Malasag, and assistance of a local guide. Purchase of package are on dates between June 5 to 15 only. Call 851-0361, 0921-9796165, 0919-2838146.

MFI Scholars' Day

A TOTAL OF 403 STUDENTS WHO SUCCESSFULLY PASSED THE REQUIREments for scholarship of MFI Technological Institute (formerly Meralco Foundation Institute) will be honored during the 25th Scholars' Day to be held on June 29. Of the total number of scholars, 126 passed for the 1st year in Industrial Technician Program (ITP) and Information Technology (IT). The rest belong to the 2nd and 3rd year students, including those are deployed in various industries for their OJT. This year's affair is also the school's recognition day for students who excelled during last school year. As a tradition, a celebration of the Holy Mass will precede the program proper. There will be an awarding of medals to honor students.

SAP free seminar

PHOENIX ONE KNOWLEDGE SOLUTIONS INC INVITES YOU TO A FREE seminar on SAP, to be conducted by a recognized SAP partner Fasttrack. Make yourself available on June 29 from 6 to 8 p.m. Please confirm your attendance by calling 775-7001 or 775-7002 and look for Carol Reyes. This seminar is open to accountants, system analysts, IT professionals/graduates, SAP practitioners, MBA candidates and/or graduates, entrepreneurs, and professionals who want to shift to an IT career. Discover SAP and realize the career opportunities waiting for you. Reserve a seat now!

PSHMI 50th Foundation Day

CONGRATULATIONS TO PERPETUAL SUCCOR HOSPITAL AND MATERNITY, Inc on its 50th Foundation Day! Free health services like eye check-ups, BP/Cholesterol/Blood Sugar checking, ECG as well as lectures and consultations will be open to the public from June 21-26. The celebration will culminate with a thanksgiving mass and a gala night on June 27.

Ministop whips up latte with a twist

SOMETHING NEW IS BREWING IN MINISTOP, THE FASTEST-GROWING convenience store chain in the country. Beginning June 20, Ministop whips up Café Latte Sundae, a cool new way of enjoying your coffee. An exciting new twist to the well-loved café latte, this refreshing product is rich coffee brew in ice cream form. Ministop's Café Latte Sundae comes in three irresistible variants, each concocted to bring out an entirely new coffee experience – Café Latte Sundae Cone which is the original flavor in a cone; Café 'N' Chips Sundae Cup, sprinkled with luscious chocolate chips; and Café 'N' Fudge Sundae Cup, laden with lip-smacking fudge syrup topping. What's more, coffee and sundae lovers alike will rave about its affordable price, which ranges from P14 to P20 only. It's definitely the ideal way to perk up and chill out at the same time, brought to you exclusively by your favorite one-stop convenience store. Visit any of the 168 Ministop stores and indulge in a novel and yummy adventure this season.

PALAFOX ASSOCIATES JOINS REAL ESTATE FESTIVAL

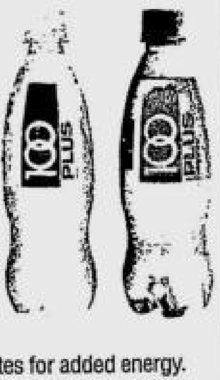
World-renowned architect Jun Palafox, founder of Palafox Associates, signed a memorandum of agreement as design consultant for 'Kasaysayan ng Bahay Pilipino,' one of the main events of the Philippine Real Estate Festival on July 26-29 at the World Trade Center. Joining him in the signing were the festival's chair Rosemarie Basa; Shiela Gonzales, executive assistant, Philippine Real Estate Festival, Ronie B. Biando, chief information officer, Palafox Associates, and Yubie Cordia, committee head, Kasaysayan ng Bahay Pilipino.

FOOD STYLING EXPERT VISITS MANILA

World-renowned food stylist and veteran culinary professional Delores Custer (extreme left) recently visited the Philippines and conducted a series of food styling workshops sponsored by Food magazine dubbed 'The Art of Food Styling and Presentation', in Cebu and Manila. The events were attended by Exatech Inc, distributor of GlemGas and Whirlpool brands in the Philippines, and participated in by local culinary professionals and enthusiasts. The New York-based Custer discussed various topics on food styling including photography, preparation techniques, sourcing of ingredients, plating and arrangement, and trends. She demonstrated food-styling and baking techniques using Whirlpool refrigerators and GlemGas cooking appliances. Both Whirlpool and GlemGas are known worldwide for their high quality appliances. For inquiries, you may reach them at (632) 712-0535.

ProductFILES

Get that isotonic edge with 100 Plus



THE IDEAL REMEDY TO QUENCH THIRST OR replace lost body fluids is by consuming an isotonic liquid — a solution that is usually formulated with salts to achieve similar composition as the normal cells of the body, thereby eliminating thirst but still maintaining electrolyte balance. One such beverage fit for today's active lifestyle is 100 Plus, an isotonic sports drink specially formulated to relieve body thirst better and faster than water so dynamic individuals can stay active longer. It quickly replaces lost fluids and allows the rapid absorption of electrolytes and minerals such as potassium, calcium, sodium, chloride, and phosphates in the body. 100 Plus not only replenishes nutrients, but also provides carbohydrates for added energy. What's more, it is lightly carbonated to provide a zesty, invigorating sensation but with far less sugar content than other heavily carbonated beverages, making it the real healthier alternative. Whether one is engaging in the competitive world of sports, or simply doing daily but tiring household, office or school work, 100 Plus is truly ideal for quenching thirst and keeping up the pace of movement.

Youthful and radiant skin with Rose White

CREATED FOR THE WOMAN WHO works, nourishes a relationship, cares for her family, and looks after herself, Rose White is a simple, affordable, and effective range of products which uses simple, effective ingredients. Because some women suffer from the signs of exhausted skin, Rose White has put together a range of skin products to specially target dryness, dullness, freckles, age spots, and wrinkles, as well as adult acne, and excess sebum production. Discover the simple, straightforward approach Rose White has to a younger, brighter complexion, and try it for yourself so you can share your results with friends and family. Complete with a Gentle Facial Wash, Clarifying Lotion, Exfoliating Facial Solution, Sunblock with Lightening Cream and Moisturizer with Lightening Cream, Rose White Skin Care and Regimen will uncover a youthful and radiant skin with continues application. Rose White Skin Care Regimen is available at leading drugstores and supermarkets nationwide.

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We would like to invite individuals who are highly competent , self-driven and have passion for excellence to join our organization:

QUALITY CONTROL ENGINEER

- Licensed CE / ME / EE / Architects; Male / Female ;
- 26-35 years old; with at least 5 years working experience gained in a construction industry;
- Demonstrate extensive knowledge of the basic requirements, concepts and procedures of quality assurance / control.
- Good in oral and written communication skills.

MECHANICAL ENGINEERS

- Licensed ; Familiar with **HVAC / Fire Protection System Installation and Tests** ; Male / Female ; 25 - 35 years old ;
- With 3-7 years related work experience as ME in a construction industry ; Knowledgeable in equipment maintenance and Mechanical Design; Industrial Plant/Diesel Power Generation , Pipelaying and Water Works an advantage.

SAFETY ENGINEERS / OFFICERS

- Engineering graduates / Safety Practitioners ; preferably with 3-5 years of experience as Safety Officer/Engineer in a construction company; Well - versed in Safety policies implementations, hazard/risk analysis;
- **DOLE / DENR** Accredited and advantage.

ARCHITECTS

- Licensed; Male / Female ; 25 - 35 years old;2-5 yrs. Relevant experience;
- Must have a knowledge of design techniques, tools and principles involved in production precision technical plans, blueprints, drawings and models; Must have knowledge in materials, methods and the tools involved in the construction or repair of houses, buildings or structures.

FIELD SUPERINTENDENT

- Must be a licensed Civil Engineer or Architect;
- With 4-6 years of Project Management Experience;
- With extensive knowledge and experience in Construction Operations, Engineering, Structural Estimations, Housing Projects, High-rise and infrastructures.

CADD OPERATORS

- Architectural Graduate (licensed not required);Drafting graduate;
- Male / Female ; 23 - 30 years old ; Must be knowledgeable with the latest Autocadd release ; Proficient in Drafting works and Technical detailing;Good communication skills ; keen to details; and must be willing to be assigned within or outside Metro Manila Projects.

ACCOUNTANT

- BS Accountancy graduate or its equivalent; preferably a CPA
- Male / female ; 24-35 years old; with at least 5 years working experience in the Accounting, Audit and/or Treasury Departments; Must have experience in General or Cost Accounting; Experience gained in a Construction Industry an advantage;
- Must be a quick learner, good working attitude and a team-player.

LEGAL ASSISTANT

- B.S. Legal Management graduate or any related course;
- Preferably Male ; 25-35 years old;
- With relevant experience but not required;
- Can deal with people in all levels of the organization;
- Excellent in oral and written communication skills; a team player;
- Must be trustworthy and flexible.

CHEMIST / ASSAYER (DMCI MINING)

- BS Chemistry or BS Chemical Engineering Graduate ;
- Undergraduates are welcome to apply; Male / Female ; 20-45 yrs old;
- Willing to be assign in provincial assignment in our DMCI Mining;
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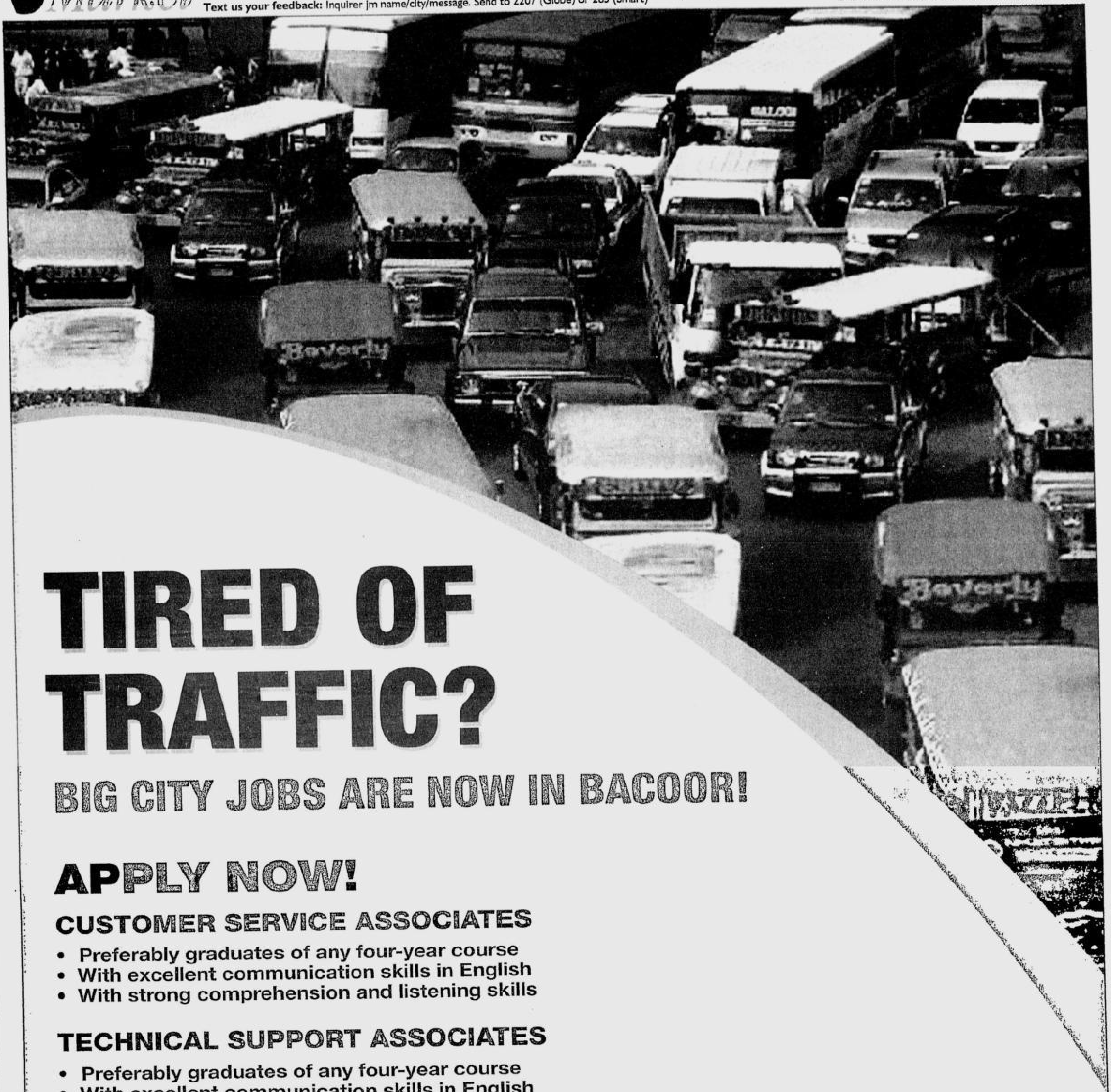

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- Preferably with technical support experience

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- Human Resources Coordinator
- Training Manager
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- Business Communications Specialist
- Administrative Assistant
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- Senior Team Leader
- Senior Operations Manager
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PHILIPPINES

SELECTION STEPS:

I. Written Technical Exam
II. Panel Interview
III. Simulation Exercise
IV. Psychological Examination

NOTE:

- Each selection step is a hurdle point. Candidate has to meet the required rating per selection step to be able to proceed to the succeeding activity
- Specific date per selection step will be pre-assigned to successful candidates

Be a part of DTI 's Team of Senior Leaders!!!

BUREAU OF IMPORT SERVICES
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

- Preserves competitiveness of domestic industries by administering import regulations and trade remedies
- monitor, analyze and forecast import levels and prices
- conduct preliminary investigation on dumping, countervailing and safeguard petitions
- provide recommendations based on findings of trade-related investigations

__Core Requisites__

- ➢ A degree in law or economics, or other related fields is an advantage
- ➢ Working knowledge on trade remedy measures
- ➢ Familiarity with the Philippine Laws and WTO requirements on importation (e.g. import procedures and regulations, customs valuation, safeguard measures, anti-dumping and countervailing)
- ➢ Action-oriented and with high leadership qualities
- ➢ Highly analytical with good negotiation skills
- ➢ Excellent oral presentation and written communication skills
- ➢ Highly developed IT skills
- ➢ With unimpaired integrity

BUREAU OF EXPORT TRADE PROMOTION
DIRECTOR

The post… serves as focal point for the Strategic Planning of Export Marketing and Trade Promotion of the Department of Trade and Industry

__Core Requisites__

- ➢ Preferably with a Masteral degree in international marketing, international management, business management, or equally applicable fields
- ➢ Several years experience in managing a marketing organization with strong background in:
  - corporate and strategic planning and monitoring; and
  - management of foreign market research, analysis and information service
- ➢ Ability to work and lead multi-disciplinary teams; ability to harness professionals into a dependable and credible team in the eyes of other agencies within and outside the Department
- ➢ Able to design, evaluate and implement strategic and operational intelligence on foreign markets and industries
- ➢ Well-informed in export business counseling
- ➢ Familiar with export-import procedures and other foreign trade laws and in international marketing
- ➢ Highly analytical with good negotiation skills
- ➢ Excellent oral presentation and written communication skills
- ➢ Highly developed IT skills
- ➢ With unimpaired integrity

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY AUTHORITY OF THE PHILIPPINES
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Promotes, accelerates, and regulates the growth and development of the construction industry. Exercises jurisdiction over its implementing boards namely: the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB), Philippines Overseas Construction Board (POCB), Philippine Domestic Construction Board (PDCB), and the Construction Industry Arbitration Commission (CIAC).

__Core Requisites__

- ➢ Bachelor's degree in either Engineering, Economics, Business or Statistics plus a complete Master's degree in related field
- ➢ Five years experience in related field such as policy development, industry promotion, construction accreditation, and dispute arbitration
- ➢ Strong leadership to direct the team towards policy implementation and construction industry accreditation and regulation
- ➢ Well informed in construction industry
- ➢ Familiar with policies on government and private construction contracts
- ➢ Highly analytical with good negotiation skills
- ➢ Excellent oral presentation and written communication skills
- ➢ Highly developed IT skills
- ➢ With unimpaired integrity

BUREAU OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE RELATIONS *DIRECTOR*

The post… serves as focal point in the Department of Trade and Industry for trade policy and negotiations. The successful candidates will be primarily responsible for economic and trade matters in connection with ASEAN (AFTA) and its trade partners, APEC, the WTO, and all other bilateral trade relations.

__Core Requisites__

- ➢ Preferably with a degree in economics or law, or related fields. A completed graduate study in these fields would be an advantage
- ➢ Conversant about current national and international economic events and issues
- ➢ Keen in perceiving and analyzing the significance of issues and able to translate the same to viable and pragmatic approaches to national economic and trade policy formulation
- ➢ Well-versed in the Philippine's trade policies, the economic and trade relations of the country, and the country's participation in multilateral trading system
- ➢ Vast technical experiences and competence in the collection and analysis of quantitative data and information that would serve as inputs and bases for the preparation of trade policy recommendations
- ➢ Ability to negotiate trade agreements with his/her counterparts in other countries and enhance the trade standing and relations of the country with the international trading community
- ➢ With leadership qualities to harness the bureau into a team that is dependable and credible in the eyes of other agencies within and outside the Department
- ➢ Ready to travel internationally
- ➢ Highly analytical with good negotiation skills
- ➢ Excellent oral presentation and written communication skills
- ➢ Highly developed IT skills
- ➢ With unimpaired integrity

PHILIPPINE CONTRACTORS ACCREDITATION BOARD
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Board issues, suspends and revokes licenses of contractors and investigates violations of construction licensing laws and regulations. Likewise, discharges such other powers and duties affecting the construction industry in the Philippines.

__Core Requisites__

- ➢ Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering
- ➢ Seven years of successful technical experience in construction industry
- ➢ Strong leadership to direct the team towards policy implementation and construction industry accreditation and regulation
- ➢ Familiar with policies on government and private construction contracts
- ➢ Highly analytical with good negotiation skills
- ➢ Excellent oral presentation and written communication skills
- ➢ Highly developed IT skills
- ➢ With unimpaired integrity

RURAL MICRO-ENTERPRISE PROMOTION PROGRAMME
MANAGER

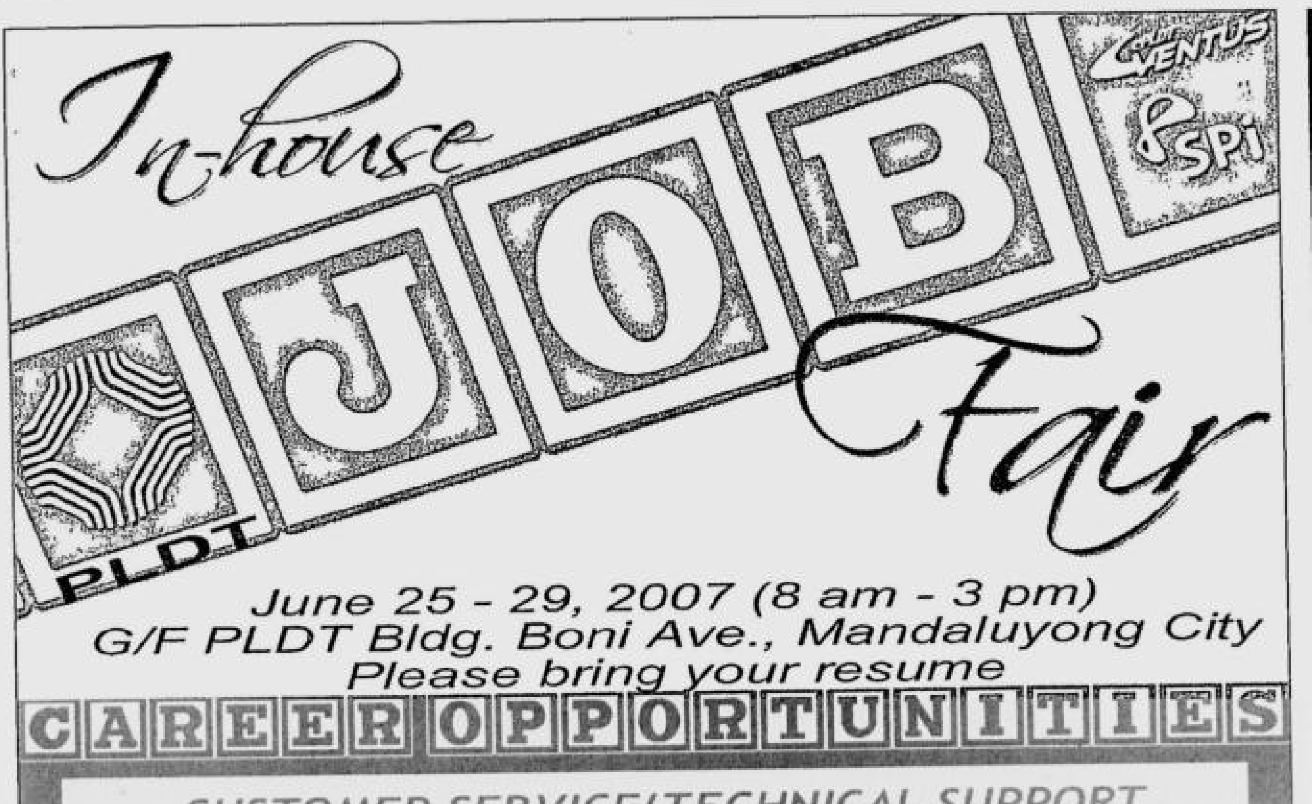
The programme's development goal is rural poverty reduction through increased economic development, job creation and rural incomes for 200,000 poor rural households. Central to achieving this goal, and as its programme objective, RuMEPP expects to see increasing numbers of new and existing rural micro-enterprises expanding and operating profitability and sustainability.

Thus, the Programme Manager is responsible for the day-to-day operation and management of the programme. He exercises direct oversight and monitoring functions over the project activities, covering the two components of Micro-Enterprise Development and Promotion (MEDP) and Microfinance Credit and Support (MFCS), as well as the contracting and provision of Business Development Services (BDSs) to ensure attainment of the programme's objectives and targets.

__Core Requisites__

- ➢ Masters degree in a relevant social science
- ➢ 6-8 years professional experience in micro-finance management and implementation
- ➢ Strong background in contract/financial management and in-depth understanding of development and promotion of micro-enterprises
- ➢ Solid understanding of operations of microfinance institutions such as rural banks, cooperatives, and NGOs
- ➢ Hands-on experience in providing capacity building assistance to project staff
- ➢ Substantial experience in coordinating with Government (National Government Agencies/Local Government Units), NGOs, civil society, and foreign funding agencies
- ➢ Experience in project management with proven ability to manage administrative set-ups, rules and regulations and in handling people's organization
- ➢ Highly analytical with good negotiation skills
- ➢ Excellent oral presentation and written communication skills
- ➢ Highly developed IT skills
- ➢ With unimpaired integrity

Submit comprehensive application/resumé *on or before 02 July 2007*
Human Resource Development Service
361 Sen Gil Puyat Avenue Makati City
or e-mail at hrds@dti.gov.ph



June 25 - 29, 2007 (8 am - 3 pm)
G/F PLDT Bldg. Boni Ave., Mandaluyong City
Please bring your resume

CUSTOMER SERVICE/TECHNICAL SUPPORT REPRESENTATIVES for Ventus

- FINANCIAL ANALYST
- INTERNAL/ IS AUDITOR
- PROJECT HR ASSISTANTS
- PROJECT ENGINEERING ASSISTANTS
- MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST
- MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTIONIST TRAINEES (Healthcare) for SPi
- CUSTOMER & DATA SUPPORT STAFF (Healthcare) for SPi

8-PLDTHR
(8753847)
Toll free 1800-10-8753847

ACCOUNTANT
23-40 yrs. old, must be a CPA with at least 1 yr. work experience. Knowledgeable in preparation of financial statements, BIR & other government compliances. Computer literate.

ACCOUNTING CLERKS
23-30 years old, female, Acctg. graduate. With at least 1 year related experience. Computer literate.

ARCHITECTS
Licensed, graduate from reputable school, at least 1 yr. experience in design & planning. Proficient in CADD, 3D & Corel.

HR STAFF
21-30 yrs old, single, Psychology major or related course, with knowledge in SSS, Pag-ibig, Philhealth matters an advantage. At least 6 mos. work experience. Must be computer literate.

SECRETARIES
22-35 years old, female, single or married. Graduate of any 4 year business-related course. Computer literate.

WORK SUPERVISORS
Male, not more than 40 years old. BSCE graduate or at least 2 years in college. Preferably with one year experience as construction supervisor.

JR./SR. CIVIL ENGINEERS
Registered CE, at least 24 years old, with min. 1 year experience for Jr. CE & min. 10 years for Sr. CE. Must be computer literate.

MATERIALS ENGINEER
Male, registered CE, must be DPWH accredited, at least 23 years old, min. 1 year related work experience in construction. Knowledgeable on materials testings, quality control & estimate works. Computer literate.

Mail resumé with picture and credentials to:

HRD, 3/F Aseana Powerstation,
D. Macapagal Blvd., Aseana Business Park,
Parañaque City
or via e-mail: **hrd_aseana@yahoo.com**

MyServ INTERNATIONAL, INC.
Luis St., corner Eusebio Avenue, San Miguel, Pasig City
6284918; 6284945 local 108 or 121; www.myserv.biz

We are a key player in the field of distribution with reputable local and multinational consumer companies as principals. We are inviting the following individuals to join our team of professionals as:

SALES SPECIALISTS & SUPERVISORS

1. Male or female; 28 to 35 years old
2. At least 2 year-sales experience in **VAN SALES & BOOKING SALES/KEY ACCOUNTS** gained from the consumer goods industry.
3. With excellent communication skills, highly analytical and computer literate
4. Must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree preferably in business or marketing management
5. With valid professional driver's license (restriction 123)

AUDIT ASSISTANT

1. Male or Female; 22 to 28 years old
2. At least 1 year experience in auditing/accounting
3. Accounting Graduate and a Certified Public Accountant (CPA)
4. High Computer Proficiency; analytical
5. Proven integrity and strong personality, meticulous to details

Applicants for IT & Encoder are welcome.

These are **URGENT** requirements.
Email your applications to hrdepartment@myserv.biz or send thru fax. no. 6284952 or hand-carry your resumé (with contact numbers) with recent 2x2 picture.

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dkt

is urgently in need of:

PRODUCT MANAGER (1)

- ■ Graduate of any four-year business-related course preferably with MBA
- ■ With at least three (3) years work related experience preferably in a consumer company or fast moving consumer goods industry.
- ■ With strong background in FMCG
- ■ Ability to direct brand communication campaign and to lead product development from conceptualization to launch
- ■ Ability to prepare a comprehensive strategic plan for the brand
- ■ With pleasing personality and can deal excellently with different people in the organization including sales, trade, and media suppliers
- ■ Pro-active

Interested applicants are requested to submit their updated resume with current colored photo, transcript of records and employment certificates to:

HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER
DKT PHILIPPINES, INC.
4th Floor, Millennium Place,
Meralco Avenue, Ortigas Center,
Pasig City
malca@frenzy.com.ph

frenzy
TRUST

RESTAURANT GROUP
Urgently Needs

- RESTAURANT STAFF
- ACCOUNTANTS
- HR OFFICERS
- MANAGEMENT TRAINEES / OFFICERS

Email resumé to:
chefnikki_01@yahoo.com
or rickylaudico@yahoo.com

SAN LORENZO SCHOOL
is in need of

COMPUTER TEACHER FOR HIGH SCHOOL

Apply in person with comprehensive resumé and transcript of records:
Mayumi St., USPS, San Pedro, Laguna
Telefax 869-1069 / 869-4694
Email: sanlorenzoschool.admin@gmail.com

JOB OPENING

PSYCHOLOGISTS
SOCIAL WORKERS
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST
SECRETARY
MASSCOM GRADUATES

Apply at PMHA, 18 East Ave., Q.C.
Tel. Nos. 921-4958 to 59

HHIC-Phil Inc.

Redondo Peninsula Sitio Agusuhin, Cawag, Subic, Zambales, Philippines

THE WORLD'S LEADING SHIP BUILDER

.......evolving for you.....

Be part of the top shipbuilding industry in the world, one of the first-class shipbuilding companies...

HHIC is the history of Korean shipbuilding industry itself. Established in Youngdo Pusan in 1937, it is the first Steel Shipbuilding Company.

HHIC has superior evaluation in technology, productivity & quality and honored as the best shipbuilding company. Its major products are middle-big container ships and HHIC has built more than 200 ships.

With its existing three (3) shipyards and in the pursuit of on-going development and investment in sharpening its technological edge, HHIC is currently building another shipyard in the Philippines at Subic Bay Freeport Zone. It is located 110 km northeast of Manila in Luzon Island; Subic Bay takes an important role of the Philippines as a free trade zone and famous tourist resort.

The Power to change the world with pride and dedication, construction with an artistic flair and technology for the future ...is in YOU. Come and join our line of outstanding employees.

URGENT!

JOB OPPORTUNITIES!

HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATORS (Manpower Needed: 50)

(G/Crane, O/H Crane, GOLIATH Crane, Jib Crane, BT Crane, T/Crane, HDY Crane, Trailer, & Signalman, Rigger)

Qualification/s:

Male, Not more than 50 years old; With at least 1 year experience in handling heavy equipment; With Driver's license Restriction 8 will be given preferential treatment; Beginners are accepted

SKILLED WORKERS (Manpower Needed: 30)

(Foreman/Supervisor)

Qualification/s:

Male, Not more than 45 years old; With at least 5 years experience in Shipbuilding/Ship Repair companies; With team leadership ability

ENGINEERING STAFF (Manpower Needed: 60)

Qualification/s:

Male, Not more than 35 years old; BS Mechanical/ Electrical/and Chemical Engineering graduates; Preferably with PRC license; With at least 1 year experience in Shipbuilding/Ship Repair companies;
Fresh graduates are welcome to apply

MARKETING STAFF (Manpower Needed: 5)

Qualification/s:

Male/Female, Not more than 35 years old; Bachelor of Law Graduate; Preferably with 6 months related experience; Knowledgeable in Contract Preparation

HR STAFF/ADMIN STAFF (Manpower Needed: 20)

Qualification/s:

Male/Female, Not more than 35 years old; Preferably BS Psychology or Behavioral Science graduate; With at least one (1) year HR related experience; Computer Literate & with excellent communication skills

FRONT DESK CLERKS (Manpower Needed: 10)

Qualification/s:

Male/Female, Not more than 28 years of age; BS Hotel & Restaurant Management Graduate or any Four-year course; At least 5' 4" in height for Female & 5' 6" for Male; With very pleasing personality & excellent communication skills; Preferably with 6 months related experience

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY (Manpower Needed: 10)

Qualification/s:

Female, Not more than 30 years old; Graduate of any Four-year course; Preferably with 6 months related experience; With pleasing personality; Proficient in Computer Operations

FOOD ATTENDANT (Manpower Needed: 10)

Qualification/s:

Male/Female, Not more than 35 years old; At least 2nd year college; Preferably with 6 months related experience; Neat looking and hardworking

Interested Applicants willing to work in Zambales may send their resume in
HHIC – Phil Inc. at Redondo Peninsula, Sitio Agusuhin, Cawag, Subic, Zambales 2209
or e-mail at hrhanjin@yahoo.com

For inquiries call 047-252 5100 local 1213 & 1211 or fax us at 047-252-7611
and look for Mr. Arnel B. Soriano or Ms. Joan Amhertia F. Salazar

Competitive salary and benefit package awaits qualified applicants such as boarding, meal, transportation allowance and the opportunity to learn new skills in Korea.

Applicants who are currently employed in Shipbuilding/Ship repair companies will not be entertained.

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

The Office of the Representative of the United Nations Population Fund, Manila is seeking applications from competent candidates to fill the post of:

PROJECT ENGINEER

Under the overall supervision of the UNFPA Representative and the immediate supervision of the Field Disaster Management Coordinator based in Legazpi City, the Engineer will provide overall technical supervision in the construction and repair of health facilities. More specifically, the engineer shall perform the following duties and responsibilities:

1. Assist and facilitate the preparation of the design specifications and bill of materials for a typhoon-proof barangay health station;
2. Provide technical advice and participate as an observer in the selection of the contractor;
3. Prepare the operational guidelines and toolkits that will guide the implementation of the construction and repair of health facilities;
4. Coordinate with the province in the identification of priority typhoon damaged barangay health stations to be repaired or reconstructed and assist in the formulation of the overall construction and repair master plan;
5. Prepare the Terms of Reference, set up and convene the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) composed of the national, regional, provincial and municipal engineers who will be involved in the technical supervision and monitoring of the construction;
6. Review the LGU documents pertinent to the construction, e.g. land title, etc. and ensure that all required documents for the construction or repair are complied with prior to initiation of work;
7. Visit the construction site and submit a professional assessment of all aspects of the project to the UNFPA Representative prior to the construction; any deficiencies or issues identified should be brought to the attention of the Executing Agency in order that such problems may be addressed before commencing construction/renovation;
8. Conduct regular site inspection and monitor the progress of work together with members of the TAC ensuring that work completed is in accordance with plans and specifications;
9. Identify and resolve implementation problems in consultation with the TAC;
10. Provide regular monthly feedback reports to UNFPA on the status of the activity; and,
11. Perform other related duties that may be assigned by the Representative.

Qualifications

- Duly-licensed Civil Engineer;
- At least 10 years progressive experience in construction work preferably of health facilities under foreign-assisted projects;
- Computer literate;
- Integrity; commitment to mandate; initiative;
- Good communication skills; team player;
- Willing to be based in Catanduanes

Applicants are requested to send their application letters indicating post title together with a completed UN Personal History Form (P11), available in **www.unfpa.org/about/employment/documents/p-11** to: The Country Representative, United Nations Population Fund, 30th Floor, Yuchengco Tower 1, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Avenue, 1229 Makati City, Philippines or through email: manongdo@unfpa.org.

We will only be able to respond to those applicants in whom UNFPA has a further interest. UNFPA is an equal opportunity employer and reserves the right to appoint at the indicated or lower level and prior to the closing date.

This is a project-funded post.
Salary Range: PhP 50,000/month
Duration of employment: Six (6) months
Deadline for submission of applications: 08 July 2007

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- Content Writers
- Printing Graphic Artists

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or call **Ms. Icy Torres** at **0928 - 349 - 9627**
for an interview schedule.

* please indicate the position applied for in the subject line of your email

For more info visit **www.creativepageonline.com**

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Qualifications: at least 3-5 yrs exp. working in building maintenance.
For supervisory positions exp. must be 5 yrs & up in the same field, with good command of English
not more than 45 yrs

URGENT POSITIONS FOR OUR PROSPECTIVE CLIENT – SIEMENS - THAILAND

SIEMENS

GLOBAL NETWORK OF INNOVATION: STRIKE A NEW PATH WITH SIEMENS

Please submit your updated CV's online @ applications@smithbell.com.ph or to recruitment@smithbell.com.ph & attached the following requirements:

Photocopies of Diploma; Certificate of Employment; Certificate of Trainings / Seminar; Scanned 2x2 pics.

Siemens IT Solutions and Services

30 positions available for SAP professionals at all levels
(Siemens Limited Thailand work location)

Siemens IT Solutions and Services operates in over 40 countries worldwide and has a workforce of 43,000 employees, while Siemens overall operates in 190 countries, has a combined workforce of 450,000 employees sharing knowledge and expertise. Siemens currently have 1,900 employees in Thailand taking part in our global network of knowledge and innovation. The activities are focused on developing the country's communication networks, transportation systems, energy infrastructure, industrial, building and automation systems, electronic business solutions and services, lighting and medical engineering. As a global player, we are strongly committed to being a leader in innovation, serving our customers' and employees' needs as well as strengthening our business for continued success.

The Asia Australia business unit of Siemens IT Solutions and Services (SIS) operates a regional SAP Application Management Support Center (AMSC) located in Bangkok, Thailand, offering SAP consulting, support and implementation services to our customers in Thailand and the region. SIS is now searching for highly competent, active and experienced professionals to join this growing team in the following function:

SAP Consultants

Modules: FI/ CO/ MM/ PM/ PP/ SD/ PS-Logistics/ QM/ WM/ CS/ HR/ ABAP/ BASIS/ BW/ TR/ SEM/ SRM/ CRM/ RE

General Requirements for all Candidates:

- Must possess a degree in a discipline related to the area of consulting or a University degree, preferably in Business, Accounting/Accounting Information Systems or Computer Science
- Fluency in English, both written and spoken
- Excellent analytical, problem-solving and consulting skills
- Strong communication and customer relationship skills
- Ability to work independently and proactively in a multi-national team

Technical Requirements for all Candidates:

- Undergone at least one full-cycle SAP implementation
- Proven skills in conducting Requirements Analysis, Business Process Design, Configuration and Implementation in the respective areas of expertise
- Programming expertise and skills is a prerequisite for ABAP
- SAP Certification is desirable in any of the above SAP Modules
- Cross-module SAP integration knowledge is highly valued
- SAP industry sector expertise is highly valued
- Project management, team leading or coaching skills are highly valued
- Presentation skills and the ability to support sales are desirable

Industrial Managers / SAP key-users with extensive industry experience may also apply.

Sales Officers (Female Only) - must have good personality with good communication skills in English with retail background.

Gulf Carton Factory (Accre. No. 10038453) in Dammam, Saudi Arabia is in need of the following:

Converting/Finishing Foreman

Plant Mechanic Repairs and overhauls corrugators and Converting machines. Main function is Daily repairs and preventive maintenance 25-35 years old.

} must have exp. in corrugated cartons factory for 3-5 years

SMITH BELL MANPOWER SERVICES, INC.
POEA-072-LB-032707-R
2294 Smith Bell Build. Pasong Tamo Ext. Makati City
Phone 8167851 loc. 240 / 8178033 / 8178039 Fax 8178016
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GII

G2000 (Apparel) Limited of Hongkong

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

- Female; 25-35 years old, creative; works under pressure
- Mass Communication; Advertising or Marketing graduate
- At least 5 years experience in fashion retailing/ food industry and/ or advertising agencies
- Extensive knowledge and experience in Marketing Trends; advertising requirements; conceptualization and implementation of marketing plans and programs: brand positioning promotions and launching campaigns and fashion trends
- Can develop creative and effective advertising concepts
- Highly articulate with exposure in PR, advertising, marketing and market research
- Has passion for fashion; strong organizational skills

VISUAL MERCHANDISE MANAGER

- Male/ Female; 25 to 35 years of age
- Graduate of Fine Arts, Interior Design or equivalent experience
- With at least two (2) years related experience in similar or equivalent capacity, preferably in retail industry
- With knowledge in store planning interior design
- Must have strong visual, written, oral and computer presentation skill
- Proficient in fashion trend forecasting and product line planning and assortment

VISUAL DISPLAY ARTIST

- Male/ Female; 22-30 years of age
- Graduate of Fine Arts, Architecture or Interior Design or any equivalent course
- Experienced in designing and implementing store props and display
- Basic knowledge in space planning and interior design
- Creative and can work under pressure; must be computer literate

Qualified applicants may send or email their comprehensive Resumé with 2x2 picture and transcript of records to (exhibit of portfolio required for those who will be called for interview):

The HRMD
Cinderella Marketing Corporation
825 Edsa, Quezon City
email add: cinderella_job@yahoo.com

P & C SYSTEMS, INC.

is inviting applicants for the following:

5 New Licensed Civil Engineers

- Must have knowledge in ACAD 2004
- Willing to undergo training in Power Line & Telecom Structure Design
- Hardworking, willing to work beyond working hours

2 Bookkeeper / Accounting Staff

- BSA Graduate
- Computer Literate
- Good Communication Skill
- Knowledgeable in FS Preparation & General Accounting

Please submit TOR & Resumé at:

Unit 204-210 Zaravel Business Center
27 Congressional Ave., Q.C. (near Visayas Ave.)
or email at: **info@pcsi-ph.com**

TAIKISHA PHILIPPINES INC.

A Japanese multinational engineering and construction firm

has URGENT need for the following positions:

PROJECT MECHANICAL ENGINEERS

- With 3-5 years work experience as project supervisor in electro-mechanical engineering construction
- Knowledgeable of HVAC, fire protection, plumbing, utility and piping works
- Male, Computer literate with knowledge of CAD application
- Highly motivated and willing to work under pressure

CAD OPERATORS

- Graduate of Engineering, Architecture or other related fields
- Male, between 21-30 years old
- With at least 1 year work experience in mechanical, structural and architectural design works in a construction or engineering firm

Successful candidates may be assigned at our different projects in various industrial parks in Laguna, Cavite, Batangas and other sites.

Interested applicants must submit resumé detailing education and work experience with a 2 x 2 photo and transcript of records to:

TAIKISHA PHILIPPINES, INC.
5th Floor Golden Rock Building
168 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City
ATTENTION: PERSONNEL DIVISION
Email Address: tpiper@taikisha.com.ph

NOTICE OF VACANCY

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER
English, Creative Writing/related discipline; at least 2 years exp. in public/ media relations pref. gained from government entity; trained on desktop publications & media relations

ACCOUNTING SPECIALIST
BS Accountancy pref. CPA; at least 1 year exp. in accounting functions esp. financial statement & bank reconciliation preparation pref. gained from bank/other financial insitutions

TECHNICAL ASSISTANT
Business, DevComm.; at least 1 yr. relevant exp. pref. gained from government entity; excellent planning & communication skills

ACCOUNTS SPECIALIST (BANK/FI ACCREDITATION)
Commerce/related discipline; at least 1 yr. exp. in bank/financial institution accreditation work, project proposals evaluation, & loans packaging & marketing

ACCOUNTS OFFICER (REMEDIAL)
Commerce; pref. w/ experience in remedial mgt. gained from bank/similar financial insitutions; knowledgeable in loans evaluation

All positions require CSC Professional Eligibility

Send application letter, resumé & CSC Eligibility Certificate to:
Small Business Guarantee & Finance Corp. - HRD
17F 139 Corp. Center 139 Valero St., Salcedo Vill., Makati City
Email: jpelingon@sbgfc.org.ph Fax: (02) 813.5727

Display Logic
www.displaylogic.net

A 21-year old company specializing in the marketing and exhibit industry is in immediate need of the following for permanent employment:

SALES EXECUTIVES

- *At least 23yrs. Old, graduate of any 4-year course*
- *Fluent in English and with excellent communication skills*
- *Self-driven, Outgoing, Independent, with excellent people skills*
- *Preferably with previous sales experience*
- *In excellent health and willing to do field work*
- *We offer basic salary, sales commission, allowances and performance incentives*

EXHIBIT DESIGNER

- *Not more than 35yrs. Old, graduate of any 4-year design course*
- *Must be proficient in 3D Studio Max (bring design portfolio)*
- *Willing to work overtime*

PRODUCTION TECHNICIAN

- *Male, not more than 30yrs. Old, at least 5'7" height*
- *Graduate of any 2-year certificate course or higher*
- *With driver's license, in excellent health, willing to work overtime*

Pls. Come in business attire with resume and 2x2 colored picture. Please apply directly at 5B Trafalgar Plaza Cond., HV dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati. 814-0289 to 92. Look for Debbie. Qualified applicants will be interviewed immediately.

FOR IMMEDIATE EMPLOYMENT

Our bank is growing and reaching its new heights! Be a part of this corporation on the rise.

Compliance Officer

- Must be a graduate of BS Accountancy
- With at least 3 yrs working experience and knowledgeable in operations, banking laws, tax regulations, and other banking matters
- With exposure on rules and regulations of BSP and BIR
- Auditing background with keen interest in compliance will be an advantage

Accounting Staff

- Must be a graduate of any business course however, Accountancy will be an advantage
- Computer literate, with good analytical skills, accurate and fast learner
- Preferably female, 21-28 yrs old

Branch Cashier

- Must be a graduate of any business course however, Accountancy will be an advantage
- With at least 3-5 years banking experience preferably in a supervisory level
- Must be willing to be assigned in Alabang, Muntinlupa City

Teller

- Female, 20-28 years old, single, with pleasing personality and good oral communication skills
- Must be a graduate of any business or finance courses
- Must be willing to be assigned in Alabang, Muntinlupa City

Applicants may email resume to
hrd_recruitment01@yahoo.com
or submit to:

The HR Personnel
ONE Remit Office, Ground Floor
Starmall Annex, Shaw Boulevard
Mandaluyong City

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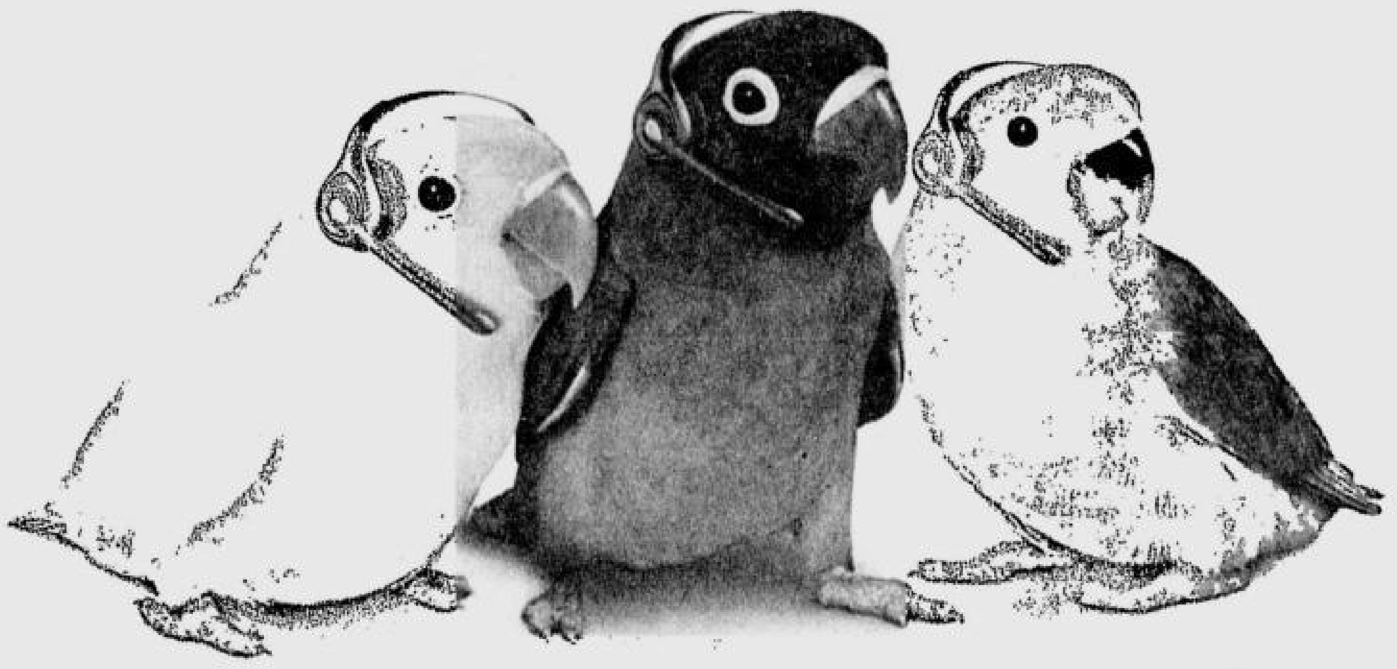

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MEGALINK

MegaLink is the country's first operational shared ATM Network and has spurred electronic banking innovations over the years. MegaLink is now expanding its business horizons to affirm its leadership in the Philippine ATM industry, in terms of a broader spectrum of products and a diverse membership base that will evolve beyond the traditional banking sector.

MegaLink offers challenging career opportunities for competent and performance driven professionals with impressive work experiences in the field of electronic exchange of financial value and information.

A comprehensive, merit-based compensation package awaits the most qualified candidates.

INFORMATION SECURITY OFFICER

☐ Graduate of Computer Science or Information Management degree or similar course
☐ With at least 5 years experience in disaster recovery, data security research, design and administration, risk analysis, TCIP/IP, firewalls, VPNs and similar security devices, 2 years of which as Data Security Officer
☐ Adequate knowledge and experience in data security software and systems, data communications, project management, contract negotiation and management
☐ Highly proficient in online transaction processing (OLTP) and/or electronic banking systems
☐ Excellent verbal and written communication skills

BUSINESS SYSTEMS ANALYST

☐ Graduate of Computer Science or Information Management degree or related course
☐ With at least 3 years experience as Business Systems Analyst or equivalent position
☐ Adequate knowledge and experience in online electronic banking systems or application
☐ Proficient in UNIX, Oracle, Windows, networking, data communications and security and contract negotiation and management
☐ Work experience leading a group of technical people is an advantage
☐ Excellent verbal and written communication skills

NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR

☐ Graduate of Electronics and Computer Engineering or similar course
☐ With at least 2 years experience in LAN/WAN, Frame Relay, Ethernet, Switches and Firewall System
☐ Adequate knowledge in Integrated Enterprise Network Products (IEN Products)
☐ Preferably with experience in online banking systems or applications
☐ Excellent verbal and written communication skills

ACCOUNTING MANAGER

☐ Graduate of BS Accountancy
☐ Preferably a Certified Public Accountant
☐ With 3 to 5 years experience as Accounting Manager or Supervisor
☐ Familiar with computerized accounting and usage of integrated accounting application
☐ Excellent verbal and written communication skills

HR OFFICER

☐ Graduate of BS Psychology, Behavioral Science or Human Resource
☐ With 3 to 5 years experience in HR work, particularly in recruitment and selection, training and development and compensation and benefits
☐ Must be proficient in MS Office: Word, Excel and PowerPoint
☐ Excellent verbal and written communication skills

Applicants are requested to email their comprehensive resumes to claberkleys@yahoo.com.ph

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DESIGN/FURNITURE SHOP ASSISTANT

CAD, English proficient with good communication skills
call/fax resumé 8959187/ 09223876470
design1508@globelines.com.ph

CIVIL ENGINEER

with experience in construction
Call: 523-4990 • 522-4310 • 522-3450

WE ARE IN NEED OF THE FOLLOWING:

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- PURCHASING CLERK
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- FOOD SERVER
- SUPERVISOR
- SALES

AT LEAST 25 YRS. OLD, COLLEGE GRADUATE & COMPUTER LITERATE.
CONTACT MARGIE @ 637-7041 OR 747-4837

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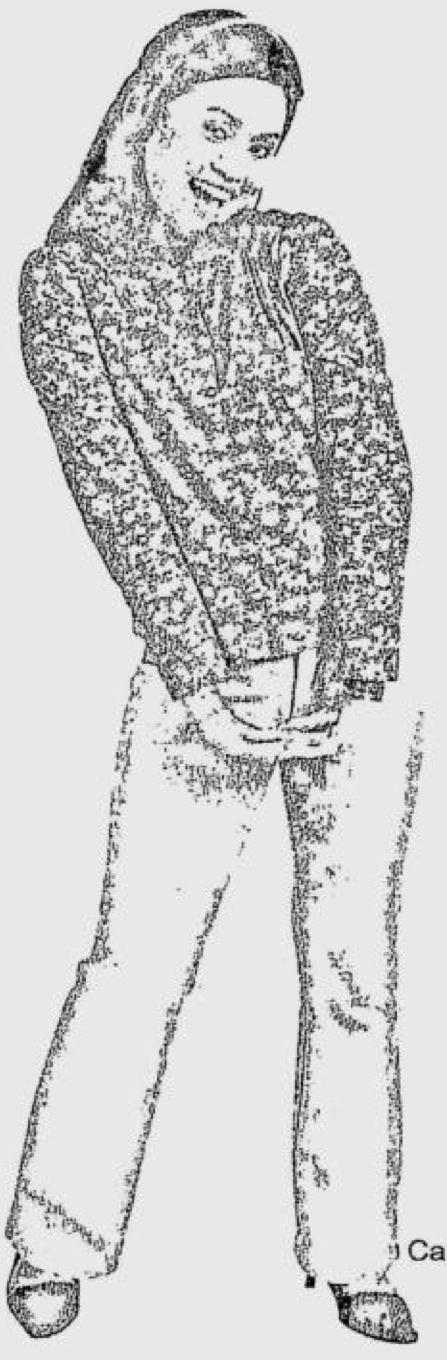

RJ
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Team Leaders
Operations Director
Client Delivery Manager
Quality Assurance Specialist

Support:

Project Recruiters
Leadership and Dev't. Trainer
Reports Analyst - Sales

Qualifications:

For Operations:
- At least 6 months call center experience handling international accounts

For Support:
- At least 1 year of experience in the same capacity.

Send your resume to:
Careers.agent@acquireap.com - for Agent positions
Careers.nonagent@acquireap.com - for Non Agent positions
or Log on to:
www.acquireasiapacific.com

ACQUIRE

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It's a GREAT time to be a part of Singapore's LARGEST contact centre.
In the scope of our rapid and aggressive expansion, **eFusion Singapore** is seeking professionals who will represent us in the Philippines, based in the region of **Makati, Manila**.

Simply prove to us that you are the expert we're looking for in selling of personal unsecured loans for banks and we'll reward you accordingly! **Bring along your most recent 3 months' payslips + sales awards & certifications and we're willing to offer you a joining fee of **Php 600** if you are chosen!!**

**You have to be an active employee for at least 3 months from your commencement date to qualify.
Not only do we take pride in what we do, we have FUN! Your passion and energy are what we need!

35 Sales Support/ Customer Acquisition Representatives (Contact Centre)

(Urgently required!) Very fluent and well versed in spoken and written English / Basic computer skills/College Degree or equivalent.

Team Leaders (10 Positions)

At least 2 years experience in leading team size of 10 or more /Skilled in call centre analytics/Very creative and skilled in motivating teams

Other Positions

- Campaign Manager
- HR Supervisor
- Finance Officer

ENJOY coming to work!

Come meet us on *25-27 June 2007, Mon-Wed, 10am-5pm.*
Please **quote EF 6001** when applying for the positions.
3F Goodland-Smartnet Building, 377 Sen Gil Puyat Ave. Makati City.
For enquires, call +63 (2) 793 5465. Email detailed resume to link@efusion.com.sg

WHY CHOOSE eFusion to enhance your sales career:

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Please quote EF 6001 when applying for the positions stated above

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Shell Solar Philippines Corporation

is in need of registered Contractors for Service Centres located in the following areas :

Batangas City
Tuguegarao
La Trinidad, Benguet
Tagum, Davao Del Norte
Tuguegarao, Cagayan

Requirements and Qualifications:

- Business Permit
- Service vehicle for hauling
- Available safety tools
- Knowledgeable in electrical works
- Willing to work in remote and unelectrified areas

Interested applicants may send a letter of intent addressed to :

The General Manager
Shell Solar Philippines Corporation
4F Shell House Building,
156 Valero Street, Salcedo Village,
Makati City

GeiserMaclang

GeiserMaclang Communications is one of the country's most groundbreaking and transformative communications firms, representing some of the Philippine's well-loved brands and market leaders.

The team is committed to the recruitment and retention of the best and brightest talents to provide public relations and marketing solutions that meet the unique needs of our clients. We are looking for the right people to lead us as we take the next step towards growth.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT EXECUTIVE

To assist the Business Development and Marketing Manager in new product development and new business initiatives.

The ideal candidate should be a Communications, Marketing, Advertising or Business graduate; preferably with 1-2 year agency experience especially in accounts handling; proactive, and willing to work long hours; is a team player; keen on details; able to handle multiple tasks; and proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel and Powerpoint.

MEDIA TRACKER/EDITOR

To assist the Media Monitoring Supervisor in tracking news reports.

The ideal candidate should be a Communications, Advertising, Brand Management or Journalism graduate; interested in news and public affairs; fast reader; knowledgeable in Advertising Value Equivalency (AVE) measurements; patient and willing to work long hours; able to handle multiple tasks; a team player; and proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel, Powerpoint and willing to learn new software applications.

IT ADMINISTRATOR/MEDIA LIBRARIAN

To provide IT support to the different departments and to assist the Media Monitoring Supervisor, Media Tracker/ Editor, the PR and logistics teams in daily operations.

The ideal candidate should be a Computer Science, IT, and/or IT Security graduate; preferably with 1 year experience as an IT Administrator; knows how to setup a secured infrastructure; proactive; and a team player.

MARKETING, PR AND COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT

To assist the Marketing, PR and Communications Manager in spearheading campaigns.

The ideal candidate should be a Communications, Marketing or Business graduate; preferably with 1 year experience in account management; is proactive, patient and willing to work long hours; able to handle multiple priorities, plan ahead and work cooperatively with both internal and external colleagues; must be detail oriented and can efficiently manage their time; and has excellent MS Office skills (Word, Excel, Powerpoint)

PR WRITERS

To create written content such as press releases, feature articles, advertorials, campaign presentations, creative event invitations, scripts etc.

The ideal candidate should be a Journalism, Communications or Marketing graduate; preferably with 1 year professional writing experience within a creative (ad/ PR or marketing) agency setting; very creative with strong research skills (particularly on the net); computer-savvy; must have superior oral and written communication skills; strong editing skills; detail oriented with the ability to manage time efficiently, handle multiple projects and meet tight deadlines; proactive, patient and willing to work long hours.

Interested applicants may forward their letter of application, detailed CV with photo and transcript of records to info@geisermaclang.com and careers@geisermaclang.com. Applications will be treated with strict confidentiality.

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WE ARE AN ESTABLISHED INSTITUTION OF MORE THAN 25 YEARS OF TRIED, TESTED AND PROVEN EXPERIENCE AND WE NEED APPLICANTS WHO:

- Can read, understand, write and speak ADEQUATE English
- Are proficient in basic math (arithmetic)
- Are capable and eager to learn new and commercially applied knowledge in any one or more of the following fields:

☐ Finance and Investment
☐ Management
☐ Marketing and Sales
☐ Economic Analysis
☐ Tourism and Travel
☐ Local Community Development
☐ Architectural Drafting
☐ Paralegal Activities
☐ Computer Applications
☐ Executive Secretary

[PLEASE INDICATE YOUR AREA(S) OF INTEREST]

- You must unconditionally:

☐ Be willing to work exclusively for our organization, and to devote full-time including late and off hours, weekends and holidays
☐ Be able to get along with others
☐ Submit to written testing, some of which will be remotely administered, and extensive oral interviews
☐ Be totally committed to adapt to the company's existing culture, if you are accepted
☐ Possess and have a verifiable record of unquestionable integrity and trustworthiness (references will be required)
☐ Have some computer literacy or are eager to learn
☐ Agree to teach and pass on your acquired knowledge and skills to others to assist them and to replace you so you can be promoted in the future

- There are no age, gender or scholastic requirements.

If you meet the above conditions, please submit your full bio-data, I.D. photo, e-mail address and fax no. (for remote preliminary testing) to:

HRD
P.O. Box 130 MCPO
Makati City

You may wish to secure a documented book about our institution by stating so in your application letter together with a check or cash equivalent to P500.00. Upon approval, first come first served, we shall send a copy to you which you may either keep, or return any time within 30 days for a full refund.

URGENTLY IN NEED OF QUALIFIED CANDIDATES TO FILL UP REQUIREMENTS OF A LEADING RESTAURANT AND DOUGHNUT N' COFFEE SHOP

CUSTOMER SERVICE ASSISTANT/ RETAIL SPECIALIST

☐ 18 to 25 yrs. old, graduate of HRM or other related courses; with 2 years working experience in restaurant operations; excellent communication skills in English is required; with good customer relation skills.

CASHIER/COUNTER CREW

☐ 18 to 25 yrs. old, College Level, with previous related work experiences in fast food; excellent communication skills in English is required; pleasing personality

BARISTA

☐ 18 to 26 yrs. old, College Level, with previous work experiences as Barista in coffee shop business is an advantage; excellent communication skills in English is required, pleasing personality

PRODUCTION CREW / PROCESSING SPECIALIST/STOCK CLERK

☐ 18 to 26 yrs. old, College Level; with previous related work experiences in fastfood operation; excellent communication skills in english is required; pleasing personality.

FUTURE PLUS MULTI-PURPOSE COOPERATIVE
Unit 504 EU State Tower, No. 30 Quezon Ave.
Quezon City (right after Banawe- infront of Uni-Oil)
Tel. No. 742-7413 or 742-8043 Look for Angel/Michele
EMAIL ADD: futureplusmpc@yahoo.com

*INTERESTED APPLICANT MAY SUBMIT PERSONALLY THEIR RESUMÉ, NBI CLEARANCE & 2x2 PICTURE.

Biocosys Corporation

Exclusive Distributor of High Quality Korean Skin Care products in the Philippines.

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING:

PHARMACIST (Licensed)

- Male/Female. Must have two years related work experience.
- Competent in inventory and quality control system.
- Can work under pressure.
- Well-versed with BFAD documentation & regulations
- Organized, systematic, solution focused, result-oriented, meticulous
- Knowledgeable in Microsoft Excel, Word, Power Point
- Good English verbal and written communication skills.

BEAUTY CONSULTANT

- Female, 20-25 years old, 5'2 in height
- College level, with clear skin and vibrant personality
- Must have 2 years sales experience
- Good oral communication skills.

Please submit your resume with 2x2 latest colored picture, PRC ID, and transcript of records to 4/F Textron Bldg. 168 Luna Mencias St. Addition Hills, San Juan or email it to biocosys@yahoo.com Tel # 718-0075 to 76 loc. 802.

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alegre
BEACH RESORT

A renowned 5-star triple-A beach resort in Cebu with some 38 rooms, food and beverage outlets, meeting and sports facilities, dive station, is presently looking for a:

SALES ACCOUNT MANAGER
(Manila-based)

- ✓ candidate must have at least 1 year experience in a similar position
- ✓ proven track record in account acquisition and maintenance
- ✓ must have excellent presentation and communications skills
- ✓ proficient in MS Office Applications and Internet
- ✓ a good team player and motivator and should have a good strong leadership traits
- ✓ aggressive and can interact well with people in all levels
- ✓ can start soonest

Interested parties may send their comprehensive resumé and 2 x 2 colored picture to:

Unit 1204, 12/F, Tycoon Center, Pearl Drive, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. No. 02-6347505-07 Fax. No. 02-6331833

or e-mail to :
alegresales@pldtdsl.net

All applications should be submitted on or before June 29, 2007.

DYNAMIC SALES OFFICERS

Fast Growing Food Manufacturers is looking for dynamic salespersons to be part of its marketing team. The people we are looking for are young (25-40 years of age). Experienced (at least 3 years in sales), Hard working and results oriented. They will either manage dealer relationships and/or supervise route salesmen. Two will be based in Metro Manila; Two in Central Luzon, preferably Pampanga.

Compensation will be a combination of fixed monthly salary and allowance plus performance incentive.

All applications will be treated on confidential basis. Please send your bio-data together with a 2x2 photograph to: **megatln@yahoo.com** or fax no. **712-2581**.

FERRITZ INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT CORP.

....A Constn. Re Dev't, and Bldg. Mgt. Co. seek applicants for the position of....

1. SENIOR PROJECT ENGINEER

- Male/Female
- Civil Engineer w/ professional license
- At least 5 years experience in Vertical & Horizontal Construction
- Computer literate

2. PROPERTY MANAGEMENT DIV. ASST.

- Male
- Civil or Electrical Engineer graduate
- With or without experience
- Not more than 25 years old

3. DRAFTSMAN

- Male/Female, 23-28 years old
- Knowledge in AutoCadd operation
- 2 years experience in Construction details
- Basic knowledge in Estimation Works and Construction Materials
- Work with minimum supervision

Applicants may send Resumé, 2x2 Photo, TOR at 3/F FIDC Bldg. 939 Aurora Blvd., Cubao, Q.C. Interviews by appointment only. Tel. No. 911-3182

POEA
24-HR HOTLINES
722-1144 • 722-1155

IMMEDIATE HIRING

- **OPERATIONS MANAGER**
- **MARKETING MANAGER**
- **PRODUCT MANAGER**
- *At least 5 years working experience with extensive knowledge in electronic gadgets & handling people (for all managerial position)*
- **EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT**
- *FEMALE 20-30 yrs. old, fluent in Mandarin / Fookien, English & Filipino (both oral and written communication)*
- **STORE SUPERVISOR**
- **TRAINOR**
- **RECEPTIONIST**
- **SALES CLERK**

HUG

Interested applicants may apply at:
16-C Petron Megaplaza, 358 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City
Tel. No. 887-7888 • Fax No.: 887-7880
or E-mail your resumé with 2x2 picture at hug.info@gmail.com

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SALES REPRESENTATIVES

To be based in Makati, Mandaluyong, San Juan, Cebu, and Quezon Province. (For Cebu and Quezon applicants we prefer Cebu & Quezon Province residents)

ADMIN STAFF

(preferably residing in Cebu)

DENTIST

Send resumé to:

DENTISTREE
Room 201 PCS Bldg., 992 EDSA,
Quezon City
email to: info@dentistree.com

Full Time or Freelance 3D Studio Max/Vray Modellers / Renderers wanted by Makati based design shop. Architectural background is a plus. Send your resumé and samples in confidence to RG Inc. MCPO Box 3000 Makati City 1270 or email to rgraphixhr@gmail.com

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WANTED IMMEDIATELY

- **Licensed Junior Architects**
- **Licensed Junior Civil Engineers**
- **Licensed Junior Electrical Engineers**
- **Autocad Operators**

All applicants must be knowledgeable in Autocad and Cost Estimate

Please send resumé to:
Tri Engle Consultancy (TEC) Corp.
Rm. 202 FORC Bldg.
N. Domingo cor.
F. Roman Sts., San Juan.

PR, Events & Production
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KEY ACCOUNTS PROJECT COORDINATOR

The position is responsible to lead, supervise, coordinate and monitor the execution of a continuing consumer loyalty program involving trade accounts (supermarkets) nationwide.

Qualifications:
• Project management experience in the field of fast-moving consumer goods, supermarket or retail chain distribution preferred • Pro-active, has strong initiative, solutions-finder, hard working and trustworthy • Results-oriented, can work with minimal supervision, with strong leadership skills • Male/female, 20 to 30 years old • Graduate of any four-year course from a reputable school, preferably business-related • Excellent written & oral communication & presentation skills • Excellent inter-personal skills, people and service-oriented • Computer literacy in Microsoft windows programs • Willing to travel to different parts of the country

ASSOCIATE MARKETING COUNSELOR (AMC)

Qualifications:
• male/female, preferably not over 30 years old • to do account servicing work • graduate of a marketing or business course • adept in marketing conceptualization, planning & execution • computer literacy in Microsoft windows program • organized and can work with minimum supervision • proficient in oral and written communication • willing to go on local travel • preferably can drive

OFFICE ASSISTANT

Qualifications:
• female, preferably not more than 25 years old • fresh graduate of marketing communication or business course • to coordinate all units' account activation • adept to details • highly flexible and a team player • hardworking, trustworthy, responsible • proficient in English, both in oral and written communications • with professional attitude • pleasing and flexible personality • computer literate • with exceptional office and administration skills • organized

These are immediate requirements.
Please send or bring your comprehensive resume, transcript and recent 1x1 photo to:

Admin Head
Executive Decisions Integrated Marketing Communications Firm
(EDIMCF)
3rd Floor, Doña Segunda Building, 113 Kamuning Road, Quezon City
Tel. Nos.: 413-6436; 426-4845; 448-5396

Application forms sent thru e-mail and fax shall not be entertained

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PAYROLL OFFICER (Code: FPO-504)

- **Female** not more than 30 years of age; single
- Familiar in payroll system, preferably PRIME SYSTEM
- Accounting Graduate
- Background in payroll systems; knowledge in PRIME SYSTEM is an advantage
- Payroll administration experience of at least 3-5 years
- Broad knowledge in government reportorial requirements
- Good communication skills, customer-friendly, highly dependable, motivated and has good sense of urgency.
- Willing to work long hours, weekend and holidays.

INTERPRETER (Code: PNTR-300)

- Male / Female not more than 30 years of age
- Proficient in Fukien, Mandarin, Cantonese
- Filipino Citizen; with salesmanship ability
- Service oriented and willing to learn new skills
- Willing to work long hours, weekend and holidays and shifting schedule

PASSENGER SERVICE AGENTS (Code: PCSA-300)
CARGO AGENTS (Code: CCGO-303)

- Male / Female 20 – 25 years of age
- With very pleasing personality & pleasant disposition
- Height requirement: 5'3 for female and 5'7" for male
- College graduate
- Excellent English communication skills; strong customer service skills; highly motivated & has the initiative to learn, with keen attention to details
- Willing to undergo intensive training
- Willing to work on shift schedule, weekends, holidays & extended hours
- Knowledge of a foreign language, an advantage

FLIGHT DISPATCHER (Code: RFLD-402)

- Male, not more that 30 years of age
- College graduate preferably of BS Aeronautical or Aerospace Engineering
- ATO Licensed or its FAA equivalent
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Good interpersonal skills, Good mathematical understanding
- Highly motivated & has the initiative to learn, with keen attention to details and with high tolerance of stress
- High level of integrity, emotional maturity and unquestionable loyalty
- Willing to work on shift schedule, weekends, holidays & extended hours

TRAINING & QUALITY SPECIALIST
(Code: PTQS-400)

- Male / Female not more than 30 years of age
- Graduate of a 4-year Bachelor's Degree
- With extensive 5-year airline related work experience
- Articulate, smart, assertive, resourceful and self motivated
- Possess strong facilitation and presentation skills
- Proficient in Microsoft Office applications (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)
- Must be able to liaise with external clients
- Extensive experience in designing, conducting and evaluating training programs with specific specialization on Passenger Basic Course Station Operation (Ramp); Dangerous Goods, *Preferably IATA Certified and or ATO License*
- Willing to work long hours

APPLICANTS ARE REQUESTED TO APPLY PERSONALLY IN PROPER BUSINESS ATTIRE
Monday – Friday from 8:30 am-5:00 pm
at 3rd Floor PAIR-PAGS Center NAIA Avenue, Pasay City
All other applicants are requested to send their resumés at **hrd@globeground.com.ph**
indicating Job Code and with most recent 2 x 2 picture.

HIMLAYANG PILIPINO PLANS, INC.

Is **URGENTLY** seeking applicants for the position of:

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

- Female, 22 to 30 years old, preferably single
- Graduate of Management or other business-related courses
- Experience in a marketing environment would be an advantage
- With excellent oral and written communication skills
- Computer literate
- Customer/service-oriented, highly organized and flexible

Interested applicants are encouraged to apply in person, Monday to Friday, with application letter, curriculum vitae, transcript of records, and 2x2 ID photo (these are strictly required), or send these to this address:

THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
#1610 Triumph Bldg., 6th Flr. Quezon Ave., Quezon City
Tel. # 927-9671 to 75 loc 230
Or e-mail to: **hrd_hpi@yahoo.com**

DISTRIBUTOR OF HIGH TECHNOLOGY GERMAN SPECIAL LUBRICANTS IS IN NEED OF

SALES ENGINEERS/ SALES EXECUTIVES

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Male / Female, Preferably Mech. Engineering Graduate
- 21-30 yrs old
- Good communication skills/Hardworking
- Has pleasing personality and motivated
- Willing to travel

Applicants may send or bring their resumé with 2x2 picture at:

ALLEN SPECIALTY PRODUCTS CO.
Unit 6-J, 20 Lansbergh Place,
170 Tomas Morato Ave.,QC.
Email : **allenspecco@pacific.net.ph**
Tel No: 374 6302 Fax : 3746303

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637-2547 PASIG

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Unit 411 La Fuerza Plaza I, 2241 Don Chino Roces Ave. (near Mantrada/Magallanes-MRT Station)
Unit 3, 4/F Bloomingdale Plaza, Shaw Blvd. (near Shaw-MRT Station/Kapitolyo Rotonda)

E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph.

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Text us your feedback: inquirer WP name/city/message. Send to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

THE UNIVERSITY OF RIZAL SYSTEM HR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
The faculty and staff of University of Rizal System in Morong, Rizal in its 2007 Human Resource Development Program with the theme "Harnessing Potentials Towards Greater Efficiency and Effectiveness" held on June 4.

World-renowned human performance improvement consultant back in Manila, Live!

Dr. Rothwell

WORLD-RENOWNED CONSULTANT DR. William J. Rothwell will be coming back to Manila for a 3-day transformational workshop. Dr. Rothwell will be working in cooperation with the Institute of Training and Development Consulting Group, the same organization that brought him to Manila in 2006, for its Mega Guru Event: "Achieving KPIs with Human Performance Improvement, Building Competence for a High Performance Workplace".

Heading the number 1 ranked graduate program in HRD in the USA, Dr. Rothwell believes in the importance of Key Performance Indicators or KPIs for an organization in defining its critical success factors and be clear about the progress it is making towards realizing important goals. Having KPIs is not enough, the critical challenge is to do the right thing to create a High Performance Workplace where KPIs are constantly achieved. Dr. Rothwell will provide the latest methodology on Human Performance Improvement or HPI that is necessary for the workshop participants to improve performance, constantly achieve KPIs and build competencies for a High Performance Workplace.

Dr. Rothwell is the author of best selling and award winning books with over 60 internationally published titles such as Competency-Based Human Resource Management and The Strategic Development of Talent. He is President of world-renowned consulting firm Rothwell & Associates, Inc and Professor at Pennsylvania State University where he heads the number 1 ranked graduate program in HRD in the US.

The ITD-Rothwell Mega Guru Event will be held on July 13, 16 and 17 at the Ballroom of the Mandarin Oriental Manila. For more information and registration, call ITD Consulting at 887-7428 or email itdmanila@itd.com.my. Please visit website at www.itd.com.my

109TH INDEPENDENCE DAY MEGA JOBS FAIR
Acting Labor and Employment Secretary Danilo P. Cruz and Federation of Filipino Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Inc (FFCCCII) president John Tan, assisted by other labor and FFCCCII officials, cut the ceremonial ribbon, opening a jobs fair with some 30,000 opportunities provided by local and overseas employers to jobseekers at the Rizal Park during the 109th Anniversary of the Proclamation of Philippine Independence on June 12.

A PARADISE INSIDE CABUYAO LAGUNA
The Diocesian Catechetical Commission, and different Diocese of San Pablo, Laguna held its Planning Session at The One Algon Place Foundation, Inc headed by Rev. Fr. Elden Cabuhat, Rev. Fr. Tootsie Ubarco, Rev. Fr. Emil Urriquia, Rev. Fr. Jose Francis A. Calo, Rev. Fr. Marcelino Ramos and participated by MCST sisters, on June 19 and 20. TOAPFI Executive Director Rudin Gonzales III donated clothes for the parishes of San Pablo Diocese. For Inquiries, about One Algon Place Healing Center. Please call 6800-6120 to 21 or 809-2457 / 0917-5555030 please look for Cel Gonzales.

Hog farmers go back to school

THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF HOG Farmers, Inc observes its 16th National Convention on June 28-30 at the UPLB College, Los Baños, Laguna with a very fitting theme. "Continuing Education, Galing ng Pinoy Hog Farmer!"

When asked why the theme, National Chairman Gabriel Uy explained: "We decided to hold our 16th anniversary at the university campus where the foundation of commercial farming was first laid. It's more than going back to basics, it is an awareness that out there in the academe, the veterinarians, nutritionists and other animal science practitioners are always at the forefront never ceasing to learn, to adapt, to innovate, even to invent and ensure our continuing education as a world class hog farmer."

Keynote speaker for the opening ceremonies on June 28 is DA Secretary Arthur C. Yap who will also lead the cutting of the ribbon together with Congressman-Elect Leandro Mendoza Jr. of Batangas Province, UPLB Chancellor Luis Rey Velasco, Gabriel Uy and Durian Tan of NFHFI, Soledad Agbayani of PAHRI and Ms. Pinky Tobiano of Carrington Trading.

Seminars will be conducted on June 28-29 while a plenary session will be the highlight on the second day, June 29 with Senator-Elect Francis "Chiz" Escudero as guest of honor and keynote speaker. During the big nights of June 28 and 29, the federation will give due recognition by honoring its partners in professionalism, the Philippine College of Swine Practitioners led by its President Dr. Cesar Ballesteros, the Philippine Veterinary Drug Association led by its President Dr. Daniel Rodriguez, and The Father of the Philippine Swine Industry, Professor Emeritus Valentin Argañosa.

Action vs child labor in agriculture set

LABOR, EMPLOYERS, AND GOVERNMENT have committed to extend a more focused action to eliminate child labor in agriculture, particularly the worst forms, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) said.

Representatives of the social partners signed a document providing for a "call to action" on the elimination of child labor in agriculture at the multi-sectoral forum held recently at the Occupational Safety and Health Center in Quezon City commemorating the world day against child labor on June 12.

Labor and Employment Secretary Arturo D. Brion, in a message read by Executive Director Reynaldo Ubaldo of the National Conciliation and Mediation Board (NCMB), said the signing of a call to action to end child labor in agriculture is a manifestation of the social partners' desire and commitment to continuously combat child labor, especially in areas where children work in hazardous situations.

Ubaldo signed the document in behalf of the DOLE chief. The other signatories were Secretary Arthur Yap of the Department of Agriculture, Undersecretary Gerundio Madueno of the Department of Agrarian Reform, Employers Confederation of the Philippines president Sergio Ortiz Luis, Jr., Trade Union Congress of the Philippines vice-president Alejandro Villaviza, and Federation of Free Workers national treasurer Jose Cayubit.

Brion noted that more child workers are working in agriculture than in other sectors. He said that about 53% or 2.1 million children out of the four million economically active children 5-17 years of age were found working in agriculture, hunting, and forestry, based on a national survey conducted by the National Statistics Office in 2001.

Manila Dental Society marks 71st year

Dr. Tajonera

THE MANILA DENTAL Society, the premiere society of the Philippine Dental Association, mark its 71st anniversary with its Annual Convention and Scientific Meeting on July 8 and the President's Night and Induction of Officers on July 9 at 6 P.M. at the Coral Ballroom A, B and C of the Manila Pavilion Hotel on Ma. Orosa St., cor T.M. Kalaw St., Ermita, Manila.

According to Dr. Roberto M. Tajonera, MDS incoming president, the convention's working committee has prepared five lectures to be delivered by top foreign and local speakers, Implant Dentistry – Prof. Dr.Roberto M. Tajonera.

Kao Shou-Yen of Taiwan, Endodontics – Dr. Tan Boon Tik of Malaysia, Orthodontics – Dr. Kaan Sheung Kin of Singapore, Restorative/Aesthetic – Dr. Allan Roa and Prosthodontics – Dr. Paul Achacoso. One of the few dental societies in the country granted by the Professional Regulation Commission's Board of Dentistry as a Continuing Professional Education (CPE) provider, the Manila Dental Society is known for conducting quality dental seminars, which are timely and practical to every dental practitioner. For inquiries and other details, please contact Dr. Robert Tajonera at tel. no. 735-1229.

Seminar on value-added tax set

UPDATE MANAGEment and Research Center (UMRC), Inc (Accredited CPE Provider by the Professional Regulation Commission and Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants) will conduct a seminar on Value-Added Tax to be held on June 28, Thursday, 1 – 5:30 p.m. at Unit 2414 Cityland 10 Tower II, Makati City. Speaker will be Armi S. Linsangan, a retired BIR Official.

There will be free consultation after the seminar. Seminar fee is P1, 500.00 (Materials, Certificate of Attendance, and snacks, will be provided).

For further inquiries, please call us at tel. nos. 840-2325, 753-1346 or 845-1938 and look for Aris, Karen and Patrick or e-mail us at updatemrc@yahoo.com.

Career enhancement (CARE) program

CAREER ENHANCEment (CARE) Program was designed to enhance the competency and skills of today's managers. On July 12 and 13, De La Salle - Professional Schools, Ramon V. del Rosario Sr. Graduate School of Business Professional Development Center will hold a seminar on Management Accounting: Applying Business Numbers for High Impact Decision-making.

It introduces participants to the basic concept of accounting used by business entities in the preparation of accounting reports. It also includes selected analytical tools, techniques, and control systems as applied in business situation. Seminar fee on single participant is P7,500.00, and P7,000.00 for group of five.

For more details, email Mitch Magnabijon at supplychaindlsps @yahoo.com.

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* Reduced from Php89 Million to Php18 Million BIR Tax Assessment for BIR Supply Oilfield Services; Averted BIR Tax assessment of Php500 Million for JD Legaspi Corporation; Assisted Wyeth Philippines Corporation in obliging BIR Revenue Officers to amend Php 1Billion Tax Assessment

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Prof. Lagrosa is the Program Director of the AIM's Educational Management Program and is part of the core faculty of the Executive Education and Lifelong Learning Center (EXCELL). A creative educator and specialist in human development and group-centered learning methodologies, she is also a leadership specialist and one of the two pioneers of the Leadership Management Program of the Ateneo Learning Center. Dr. Lagrosa also spearheaded the development of a leadership and management program for health leaders from the Western Pacific Region. Aside from these, she headed numerous "transition workshops" that transformed the lives of many professionals.

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What to look out for when looking for a job online

By Ma. Esther Salcedo-Posadas
Contributor

ABOUT A DECADE AGO, THE IDEA of getting a job online was still new. As such, few middle to upper level managers risked posting their CVs lest they find their personal details in unpredictable circumstances.

Available job openings usually attracted entry to supervisory levels. Middle managers usually stayed with traditional means of getting a job such as newspaper ads, executive search and the like. Perhaps, it also had to do with understanding the technology itself.

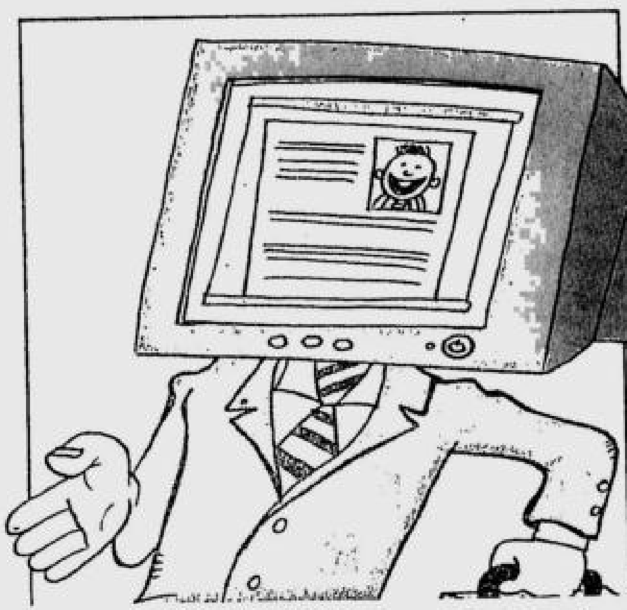
Nowadays, the online job search industry has also evolved and improved.

Managers are also better equipped to use available technology. It is not uncommon to find numerous job openings for middle to upper managers posted on the web. This time around, a lot of people are actually taking advantage of this new media.

Not all search engines are created equal. Certain websites have been well-planned while others don't have much to offer. Following are some things to look out for:

Go to reputable websites. Since you are sharing your personal details online, it is important that you deal only with trustworthy companies and those with proven track records. There have been numerous cyber crimes and it would be best to stick with websites that are known for their integrity and professionalism.

Understand their privacy policy. Most websites use what is known as a "cookie" to track your movements online. There are also some companies who may decide to use your registration information and forward them to third parties. As such, it is very important that you read and understand the company's policy with regard to privacy.



Make sure to have control over your personal data. The best websites offer you a lot of options with regard to managing your CV and other data.

For example, one reputable job search engine provides you the option to keep your resumé hidden from all recruiters and instead, allows you to choose whom to send your CV to. There is also a free monitoring service over the progress of your application. You may view if a company that you applied for is actually considering your application or if you have already been rejected. The search engine also sends job alerts based on criteria that you have set.

Discuss salary offline. While some websites may ask for your salary information, it would be best to withhold confidential information until you are actually at the negotiation stage. Keep in mind that the website is just your initial meeting point with a potential employer. Much of discussions will actually happen in person when you.finally get to the interview. This also ensures that your most private details remain such.

Due to free and easy access made possible by online head-hunting, keep in mind that the odds may be up against you. You will actually be competing with many applicants and results do not always come as fast as the click of the computer keyboard. Nonetheless, more and more companies are using this option and opportunities are also increasing. Because online job search is so accessible, there is also a danger that you may end up putting all your efforts solely into the Internet. There are other ways and means of getting a job. Don't forget to find creative solutions to your job search woes. After all, it is your tenacity that will provide results in the long run.

(The author answers life-work planning queries online. E-mail joy.posadas@gmail.com)

Starting right in your first job

By Loree Cruz-Mante
Contributor

SO, YOU'VE LANDED YOUR FIRST job! Fresh out of college, you find yourself in a new and exciting territory, one that lies waiting for you to conquer. No other job will be like this one because only one job will have the distinction of being your first.

Starting your first job right is critical to your future. Getting hired is one thing; keeping a job is another. Here's what so many others before you have learned about starting right the first time.

Look and listen

Your new work environment is not school. Neither is it the company where you did your internship or on-the-job-training. Here, you're the new kid on the block. You're the newcomer who's joining a group that may have been together for some time. You're the new addition who hasn't yet built relationships, even if you've already made waves with your impressive biodata.

While you're the eager beaver ready to jump in with your new ideas and fresh enthusiasm, it's best to be low-key. Listen and observe keenly what's going on before you make any public comments. Keep your initial impressions and judgments to yourself. Don't jump at articulating your opinions no matter how confident you are that your suggested changes will work.

Social and work norms

Look and listen for anything that will paint a picture of the company's culture for you. All your observations will be important clues to how you will conduct yourself in this new environment.

Be sensitive to the unique character of your new company. Observe how people welcome (or not welcome) you into their circle, the first things they say (or not say) to you about working there, how they orient (or not orient) you about where the canteen or restroom is. Watch how your officemates address the boss, how they relate with each other. Take note of how long their breaks are, how punctual or late people are, how early they go home.

Is the pace slow or feverish? Are people happily working or grumbling most of the time? Is the boss aloof or friendly? Are your officemates eager to report for work and hesitant to leave at the end of a workday or vice versa?

What seems to drive people: achievement or mediocrity?

Do not disregard established norms, practices and habits. This is not a good time to break the rules or speak out against them. You need more time to understand why things are the way they are, and you certainly cannot improve on them unless you fully appreciate where they come from or why they exist.

Work double time

The first few days, weeks and months are usually high-energy learning times for new hires. The quantity and quality of training will differ with each organization but it is always best to learn as quickly and as enthusiastically as possible. In many cases, training is an additional burden for supervisors whose workload may not lighten just because they have to train you. Don't add to the strain by not being attentive, alert or receptive, requiring your supervisor to spend more time on you than planned.

Supplement the training you receive by teaching yourself what you can learn on your own. Visit the company website as often as you can. Read company manuals. Dig into the company's history and into newsletter compilations, promo materials and posters, and photos and awards framed on the office walls. Understand the company's strategic framework and make it your own.

Pinch yourself every morning and tell yourself that by proudly displaying your company ID on your chest, you declare that you are now "one of them."

Cultivate relationships

Developing trust and respect is key to thriving in your new job. Establish relationships in your workplace, both personal and professional. Even as officemates gain confidence that you can contribute to the company's good, they must also enjoy your presence in the workplace. Your first few months at work are a showcase of who you are and what you can do. They are also the period where lasting impressions are formed about your trustworthiness and respectability. It's best to show yourself both as a good worker and a good person to have around.

After your (hopefully pleasant) initiation into the world of work, it is then time to look ahead. Make sure you keep these things top of mind: Lifelong learning. These days there is no longer such a thing as lifetime employment. Shifting workplace realities should make workers prepared to have several employers in their lifetime. And there is no better shield against unemployment than competence. If you want a secure future, invest in lifelong learning. Add to your ever-increasing list of competencies, capabilities and achievements. Learn all you can, so that you can do many things well. This means you can have multiple careers because you have a wide range of skills to offer.

Maintain your networks. Even as you are employed in your first company, do not stop keeping your personal and professional networks active. Keep tab on what your friends and colleagues in other companies and businesses are doing in the same way that you keep them posted on where you are and how you are doing.

Market yourself. This does not mean that you are constantly looking for a job and will leave company after company at a whim. Marketing yourself means that people know what you do best so that they will remember you when a good opportunity arises. You must try to make yourself visible both within the company and outside it.

Keep your dreams alive. Constantly keep your personal vision before your eyes. Don't lose sight of what you conceive your life mission to be.

Periodically assess how your current employment and work challenges fit in your vision of the future. When you can no longer locate your current job, career or employer in your dream map, then perhaps it will be time to move on.

You should always start right the first time because nothing will ever come close to the excitement and euphoria of that first time someone told you, "You are hired!"

(The author is a free-lance HR practitioner, trainor and author. She is also a transitions counselor with Drake Beam Morin. E-mail her at lcmante@yahoo.com.)

Gospel: Luke 1:57-66, 80

So they made signs, asking his father what he wished him to be called. He asked for a tablet and wrote, "John is his name," and all were amazed.

John the Baptist

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

JOHN THE BAPTIST IS CONSIDERED BY THE CHURCH AS ONE of the greatest men of all times. In fact, his birthday is celebrated with great solemnity in her Liturgy, a privilege accorded to him and not to other men or women venerated by the faithful as saints. What made him the greatest in the mind of the Church I think is the fact that he "prepared the way of the Lord"; he announced the coming of the Messiah and prepared the people to receive Him.

John spent all his life fulfilling this mission. Every believer of Christ could also share in this mission of John—announcing the presence of Jesus in our world and in our life. We could do this not in exactly the same way as John did, but certainly in the way allowed by the present circumstances we find ourselves in, even in the workplace. Where one works, and the manner one works, and also even with the very work itself, one can announce the "coming of the Messiah" and prepare himself and others for receiving Him in their lives. Everyone could make a personal encounter with Jesus, the Savior, in the workplace.

When the worker believes that his work is part of his mission in life and sees a greater dimension of his toils, he would experience a greater sense of fulfillment in life than just a mere satisfaction of his necessities. Working with the sense of mission would make the worker ready to take on the sacrifices and difficulties in work not just to get the compensation for it but also to show that the pains of working is a participation in the suffering and death of Jesus to save us. Thus, such manner and spirit of working, makes the worker like John the Baptist, preparing the hearts of everyone to receive the "source of life"—Jesus, who alone could give us total fulfillment and satisfaction. *(E-mail the author at mfvg@skyinet.net)*

REFLECTIONS
FOR THE
WORKING SOUL

In spite of our names

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

WHAT'S IN A NAME? A LOT. LIKE IT OR NOT, OUR NAME MATTERS very much to us. It's our ID or calling card, especially when others know nothing about us except our name. If it didn't mean so much, why do celebrities have to adopt so-called "screen names"? Because their real names don't always sound that glamorous, and publicists only know too well how damaging that could be to the actors' image and career. Then again, why do nuns, friars, etc. drop the names given them at baptism and adopt so-called "religious names" on the day of their profession? And why do some people legally change their names?

I know of someone whose name so embarrassed her that she had to change it: Patrocinio Pucay. Anyway, there are some offices where people seem so mean they "baptize" coworkers with nicknames that stick harder than glue. Sad thing is they only do this to the "least" of the workers—the janitors, errand boys, etc.

A driver is called "Harurot" for being a speed maniac. A messenger answers to "Bungo" because he's bony and looks like a skeleton. A typist is Sharon Cuneta look alike but her bad breath earns her the title "Sharon Cubeta." A canteen helper is labeled "Dyesebel" because the men find her cold and assume she must be frigid, thus she's seen as a woman who's a fish from the waist down.

Some people can be mean about nicknaming others but why fuss over a name? Our names do not define our destiny. What's the point in naming our daughter Angelina Jolie if she grows up looking more like Martina Navratilova? We didn't choose our names but we can choose not to be bothered if our name is not to our liking. Whatever the world calls us wouldn't matter that much if we knew God who knows us inside out still loves us in spite of our names. *(E-mail the author at teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com)*

'How to avoid being compared with others?'

I READ WITH INTEREST YOUR column about coping with bureaucracy and being more in control of one's life. The truth is that I have a similar problem with the corporate bureaucracy. But, I think I have a worse problem. Ever since I can remember, I always get compared with others—in the family, in school, at work, and practically everywhere I go. I simply hate being compared.

But, it seems that comparisons can't be avoided in this world. I could not get the raise or the promotion I aspire for because my boss thinks that others are more deserving than me. But, I know that I am doing a great job, too.

This leads me to believe less and less in myself. How can I improve my self-esteem if everywhere I go, there is some kind of comparison that I have to deal with. Can you give me tips on how to avoid being compared with others?

Beyond Compare

ASK YOUR
CAREER
COUNSELOR
Ernie O. Cecilia

Wow, your problem is challenging, but not without a solution.

Let me start by quoting Albert Einstein, "Great spirits have always encountered violent opposition from mediocre minds."

All throughout the ages, people who achieved greatness have somehow done things differently from the greater mass of humanity. But today, when one tries to be different, the masses will exert heavy pressure for him to conform and to be like the others.

Let me talk about two things that usually hinder us from achieving our own goals—comparing ourselves with others and allowing us to be compared with others.

Symptoms

Do you dream to be like the traditional icons of success—of beauty, wealth, or achievements? Do you set goals based on what others have achieved? Do you want to know how others performed in tests or interviews that you have been through? Do you often wish that you live a "normal" life? Do you stop and change what you're doing when you hear someone tell you, "Why can't you be like the others"? Do you give in when someone says, "That's the way things are here, and you're no exception"?

If you answer yes to any of these questions, then you could be comparing yourself with others or allowing yourself to be compared with others.

In this day and age, comparisons can be a trap, and the snare is so common in almost all aspects of our life. The overall result is sometimes a glaring mismatch or misplacement, if not displacement of so many people in our society.

Systems

I guess society is so structured that conformity is "rewarded" and nonconformity is punished. I am not saying that it should be the reversed.

More often, however, there are even greater rewards for those who stand out and do not conform.

There are norms, mores, rules, conventions, or values that are good—and we have been bombarded with these since the day we were born. That's why you eat three meals a day, take a bath, sleep and wake up early. You go to school, find a good job, retire and wait to die. That's the "normal curve." If you don't fit in, you're not part of the sacred "average." People who are average, within the normal curve, and who conform are easily predictable, manageable and controlled.

Jesus Christ, Gandhi, Churchill and quite a few "aberrations" didn't quite conform and were hated for being "crazy individualists" during their own time. Today's society continues to preserve institutions that keep people within the "normal curve." The corporate world is teeming with instruments that measure people in every way, despite the fact that people are unique in many ways.

For now, just don't forget that you are unique and no one comes close to you in terms of your overall physiological make-up. Even identical twins think and act differently.

Comparing with others

If you happen to be like others, there's nothing wrong with that.

What is wrong is trying to be like others when you are not. What is wrong is trying to use standards set by others to determine your own happiness, satisfaction or worth. What is wrong is letting others set the methods of running your life. What is wrong is comparing yourself with others and working hard at becoming more like them just to gain a little bit of "superficial acceptance."

What is worse than comparing yourself with others? I say it is allowing yourself to be compared with others.

Unwittingly, when we allow ourselves to be compared with others, we let other people control our lives. Then we become willing victims of those who want to use or abuse us.

How not to be compared

Here are some useful tips on how to avoid being victimized by comparison or what to do when being compared with others:

- Stop, whenever you catch yourself comparing "you" with others or allowing someone to compare you with others
- Learn to manage your own time, set your own schedules, and negotiate to meet others based on your availability
- Be aware of your bad habits that allow comparing yourself with others and control those bad habits
- When you're about to be confronted by a victimizer, stop and think, "What do I want from this encounter?" Set your goals and stick with it—remember nobody wins an argument
- Refuse arguments that other people behaved in the manner you are asked to follow, if you think what is being asked of you is unfair
- Don't justify your actions—ask the other person to justify his or others' actions
- Insist that you are not "the others"
- Try to learn lessons from these encounters that can improve your life
- Try to make encounters with victimizers happy and fun

In many ways, I have not been a conformist. After trials and misses, I have learned to run my own life. Just like you, I hate being compared with others. The difference is that I don't let myself fall into the comparison trap.

I have my own version of success. I also don't eat meals the usual way—I just ate my avocado salad for dinner at one o'clock in the morning, after which I had to write my Sunday column. I know I will wake up at eleven o'clock and get ready to represent the American Chamber of Commerce in a two o'clock hearing on the wage issue.

I am not a nonconformist either—I just want to be in control of my life.

A compulsive nonconformist looks at what others are doing, then does the opposite so that he does not conform. That is just as bad as being victimized into conformity.

Let me end with a quotation from Ralph Waldo Emerson, "Every individual nature has its own beauty and each mind has its own method—a true man never acquires after rules."

UNFPA

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

The Office of the Representative of the United Nations Population Fund, Manila is seeking applications from competent candidates to fill the post of:

ADMINISTRATIVE CUM FINANCE ASSISTANT

Under the overall supervision of the UNFPA Representative, the technical guidance of the UNFPA Administrative-cum-Finance Associate and the immediate supervision of the Field Coordinator for Disaster Management (FCDM), the AFA is being recruited to provide support to the FCDM in the administrative and financial operations of UNFPA's disaster management efforts in the Bicol Region. More specifically, the AFA will perform the following duties and responsibilities:

1. Assist the FCDM in setting up administrative and financial systems and procedures to support UNFPA's disaster management efforts in the Bicol Region based on UNFPA rules and regulations;
2. Handle all correspondence and communications of the Bicol Disaster Management Office (BDMO); properly label and file all documents, personnel records, reports, letters, etc.; take notes and send out official communications; prepare minutes of meetings;
3. Schedule appointments and meetings of the FCDM; take and make official calls;
4. Arrange travels ensuring that proper travel authorization and security clearance are obtained prior to the travel;
5. Conduct and maintain an updated inventory of office vehicle, equipment and supplies;
6. Handle all financial transactions of the BDMO; prepare and implement quarterly financial work plan based on UNFPA rules and regulations; procure equipment and supplies based on approved financial work plan; disburse training funds; liquidate all outstanding expenditures on a monthly basis;
7. Prepare financial reports;
8. Arrange for the conduct of an office audit, when necessary; and,
9. Perform other tasks that may be assigned by the FCDM.

Qualifications:

- Must be a graduate of business administration, accounting or HR-related courses, preferably a CPA;
- Must have at least 5 years of experience in accounting and finance, administration and human resource; management, working with foreign-assisted projects;
- Familiarity with UNFPA rules and procedures is an asset;
- Must be proficient in MS Word, MS Excel, PowerPoint and internet applications;
- Must have good interpersonal and communications skills;
- Demonstrate and promote teamwork, integrity and impartiality in all matters affecting his/her work;
- Willing to travel to depressed and disadvantaged areas and be based in Legazpi City.

Applicants are requested to send their application letters indicating post title together with a completed UN Personal History Form (P11), available in **www.unfpa.org/about/employment/documents/p-11** to: The Country Representative, United Nations Population Fund, 30th Floor, Yuchengco Tower 1, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Avenue, 1229 Makati City, Philippines or through email: **manongdo@unfpa.org.**

We will only be able to respond to those applicants in whom UNFPA has a further interest. UNFPA is an equal opportunity employer and reserves the right to appoint at the indicated or lower level and prior to the closing date.

This is a project-funded post.
Salary Range: Php 15,000/month
Duration of employment: Six (6) months
Deadline for submission of applications: 08 July 2007

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NRC

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TRANSMAK

Dubai, UAE - Registration #10108673
Final Interview : June 27, 2007

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Auto Electricians
Master Equipment Mechanics
Tyre Men
Heavy Duty Drivers / Mechanics
HR Administrators / Assistants
Safety Officers

Note: Field of Experience for above mentioned positions should be with Construction, Heavy Equipment and Vehicle and Construction Workshop.

TAQEEF

Dubai, UAE - Registration #10090771
Final Interview : June 27 to 29, 2007

Aircon Technicians / Mechanics – 100 (For Service and Installation)

RENAISSANCE SERVICES SAOG

Qatar / Oman
Final Interview : 1st Week of July, 2007

Sports Coordinators (Basketball / Football / Softball / Tennis / Volleyball)
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Procurement Managers
Chief Accountants
Project Control Managers
QA/QC Managers
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HSSE Officers
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Manama, Bahrain
Final Interview : July 7, 2007

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Male Nurses
Structural Engineers
Mechanical Engineers
HVAC / Plumbing Engineers
Project Engineers / Managers
QA / QC Engineers
IT Professionals (HP, MS Certified, etc.)
Electricians (Building or Industrial)
Duct Fabricators / Erectors
Carpenters
Pipe Fitters / Insulators
Crane Operators (Quay/ Gantry / Tower)
SPA Managers / Attendants

Interested applicants **should apply before the interview dates** w/ the ff documents: 4 pcs.2x2 pics, 2 sets of resumes,employment & training certificates, passport, NBI, electronic copy of resume (for copying only) & long brown envelope to:

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Tel No: **(02) 8435526 / 8435527 / 8435528 / 8898726**
centaurprocess@mydestiny.net centaur_manila@yahoo.com.ph
CEBU OFFICE: 2nd floor, Zosa Building (ESKINA), # 933 V. Rama St., Guadalupe, Cebu City Tel No. **(032) 2545025** (Joy or Leleth)
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EDC

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Education Development Center, a US-based, international nongovernmental organization, is seeking experienced professionals for the technical program team of the USAID-funded EQuALLS project in the Philippines. EQuALLS will work with a broad range of stakeholder organizations to strengthen formal and non-formal basic education for children and youth in Mindanao. Experience in international development projects is desired. Experience working in Mindanao in conflict or post-conflict situations will be an advantage, and ability and willingness to extensively travel within Mindanao, and between Mindanao and Manila is required.

Finance Manager, to manage the financial systems of a large complex program. Based in Manila with extensive travel to Mindanao. The Finance Manager will supervise finance officers in Manila and its regional offices. Must be a Certified Public Accountant; Masters degree in business administration; at least 5 years financial management experience handling large-scale international projects; proven experience working with USAID-funded projects; adept in using Quick Books; extensive familiarity with generally accepted accounting standards; strong analytical and organizational skills; ability to multi-task; excellent interpersonal skills; excellent leadership and communication skills (in English and Filipino). Fluency in English required; familiarity with Philippine labor, tax and related laws.

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Front Desk Personnel/Administrative Assistant, to man the reception area and provide logistical support. Based in Manila. Must have 3 years work experience as front desk personnel in a reputable organization preferably from foreign donor agencies; good speaking and writing skills; ability to multi-task; familiar with MS Office; excellent interpersonal skills; pleasing personality; good moral character & cheerful disposition. Willing to start immediately.

MIS Assistant, to manage and maintain the M&E data management information system and provide technical support in M&E/ MIS design. At least a Bachelor's/College Degree in Computer Science/ Information Technology or related field. Strong knowledge on data manipulation and management using Microsoft Access & Excel. Experience in analysis, design, development and maintenance of database system is a plus. Willing to start immediately for an initial contract of 3 months.

Submission of Applications

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ELECTRICAL Engineer /CIVIL Engineer– Male/Female; Graduate of BSEE & BSCE; must have an experience in Construction Firm; willing to be assigned in Laguna area.
ACCOUNTANT –CPA – Graduate of BSC-Accountancy; at least with 5 months experience in the same field.
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SERVICE ADVISOR – Male with pleasing personality; graduate of any business course, excellent communication and interpersonal skills; Broad automotive background.
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L A C

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Basic qualifications:

- College graduate in business course major in Marketing
- Female and not more than 35 yrs. old
- With at least 1 year experience in sales analysis & marketing strategies
- Very good in written and oral communications
- Must be computer literate

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Basic qualifications:

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- Very good in written and oral communications
- Must be computer literate

Please submit resumé to Personnel Division, GSP-NHQ, 901 Padre Faura Street, Ermita, Manila (at the back of Manila Science High School) or e-mail to **uy_edith@yahoo.com.ph**

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(SG 22/Php19,251 - Contractual MOOE 29)

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TERMS OF REFERENCE: Monitor progress of project implementation against Project Work and Financial Plan and milestones; Facilitate timely preparation of project's monitoring reports required by Project Management and Oversight Agencies; Analyze and draw lessons from monitoring reports and conduct periodic assessments; Assist in the preparation, facilitation and actual conduct of project wide assessment and planning workshops; Assist in the design and implementation and evaluation activities.

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(SG 22/Php19,251 - Contractual MOOE 29)

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TERMS OF REFERENCE: Develop information, education and communication strategy and plan; Supervise the production of appropriate print, media and information materials; Prepare articles for newsletters, periodicals, reports and other publications and manage flow of information in the website, design and implement public relations and information activities; Develop partnerships and strategic contracts to foster effective public communications and relations; initiate and organized events to promote understanding of Land Administration and Management objectives and activities.

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(SG 22/Php19,251 - Contractual MOOE 29)

QUALIFICATIONS: Bachelor's Degree in Economics, Mass Communication, Political Science and Public Administration with Master's Degree on the same courses, 3 years of relevant work experience in conducting research and policy advocacy or planning, computer literate, team player but can work independently and has the ability to work effectively with wide range of stakeholders both inside and outside the public sector.

TERMS OF REFERENCE: Responsible for conducting research and studies to aid in interpretation of land policies and proposals relationship and formulating recommendation/s or changes for policy development and improvement in support of policy formulation for administrative and legislative reforms and managing the process of mobilizing stakeholders for achieving and mainstreaming reforms.

HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST

(SG 22/Php19,251 - Contractual MOOE 29)

QUALIFICATIONS: Bachelor's Degree in Psychology, Public/Office/Business Administration or any Social Science Course with Master's Degree in Industrial/Labor Relations, 3 years of relevant work experience in human resource and training management, computer literate, team player but can work independently and has the ability to work effectively with wide range of stakeholders both inside and outside the public sector.

TERMS OF REFERENCE: Responsible for the overall management and implementation of Institutional Development and Capacity Building (Human Resource Management and Development) plans, strategy, programs and activities to support achievement and mainstreaming of LAM reforms.

MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM OFFICER

(SG 20/Php17,799 - Contractual MOOE 29)

QUALIFICATIONS: Bachelor's degree in Computer Science or Information Technology, 3 years experience as MIS Officer with knowledge of programming languages and troubleshooting and has the ability to work effectively with wide range of stakeholders both inside and outside the public sector, preferably with knowledge and experience on database management, website maintenance and networking.

MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM OFFICER II (2 POSITIONS)

(SG 15/Php13,300 - Contractual MOOE 29)

QUALIFICATIONS: Bachelor's degree in Computer Science or Information Technology, 1 year experience as MIS Officer, with knowledge of programming languages and troubleshooting and has the ability to work effectively with wide range of stakeholders both inside and outside the public sector, preferably with knowledge on database management applications.

TERMS OF REFERENCE: Responsible for assisting in the management and maintenance of project MIS and HRIS operations, computer and network troubleshooting, website updating and computer software and hardware configurations; and assisting the PPIO/OSS of all project sites on database development, mapping, network establishment.

PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION OFFICER

(SG 15/Php13,300 - Contractual MOOE 29)

QUALIFICATIONS: Bachelor's Degree in any Social Science Course preferably in Public Administration and Communication Arts, 1 year experience in Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation position, excellent communication skills, computer literate, good interpersonal relationship, highly motivated and can work effectively under pressure.

TERMS OF REFERENCE: Gather, receive and process information/data received from PCO units and other Project offices re: activities and concerns which will provide inputs in M&E and updating of the WFP; Perform various technical and administrative staff work and provide assistance to the PM&E unit.

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT OFFICER WITH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY BACKGROUND

(SG 15/Php13,300 - Contractual MOOE 29)

QUALIFICATIONS: Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science, Information Technology or any Social Science Course (Psychology, Public Administration and Communication Arts), 1 year experience in human resource development/capacity building position with Information Technology Development skill, excellent communication skills, good interpersonal relationship, highly motivated and can work effectively under pressure.

TERMS OF REFERENCE: Responsible for Human Resource Development Strategy for LAMP Project Office, Project training plan and activities, calendars and reports as well as developing and maintaining Human Resource Management System.

Women are encouraged to apply. Apply personally and address all applicants to:

The Executive Director
Land Administration and Management Project
3/F FMB Annex C Building (formerly Secal Building)
DENR, Visayas Avenue, Quezon City

Or e-mail applications may be sent to: lamp@denr.gov.ph
For more information call at Tel. Nos. 9281197/9252328

Deadline for submission of applications: **June 30, 2007**

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STORE MANAGEMENT TRAINEE

- ☐ At least 2nd year college level
- ☐ Female, 22-27 years old, at least 5'4" with a pleasing personality and good client relations and oral communications skills in both English and Filipino.
- ☐ Honest, hardworking and energetic. Self motivated and sensitive to customer's needs

MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS ASSISTANT

- ☐ Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in Engineering (Computer/Telecommunication), Computer Science/Information Technology or equivalent.
- ☐ Preferably 1-4 Yrs Experienced Employees specializing in IT/Computer - Network/System/Database Admin or equivalent.
- ☐ Ability to learn new technologies quickly and analyze problems effectively
- ☐ Must possess the ability to multi-task and react quickly and professionally in high stress situations
- ☐ Strong communication and organizational skills are essential
- ☐ Experience of retail distribution a plus

HUMAN RESOURCES ASSISTANT

- ☐ Female, 23-34 years old
- ☐ 2-3 years related Human Resources experience
- ☐ Detail oriented with strong follow through; organize and prioritize multiple projects
- ☐ Outstanding communication skills
- ☐ Strong leadership/analytical/problem solving skills

Qualified applicants for direct hiring may send their resume with 2x2 photo to:

Human Resources Department
#8 Jose Cruz St. Bgy Ugong, Pasig
Or submit to any Apple & Eve Store
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CUBAO, QUEZON CITY
Tel. No. (02) 995-8293

Bring your resumé, official transcript of records, NBI clearance. E-mail seammed_gem@yahoo.com

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Employment Opportunities

Senior Engineering Officer

(Ref. No. EXT-NO07-077(4)-OAFA-FM)

Responsibilities

The position is primarily responsible for managing and coordinating engineering activities on a shift basis for the safe, efficient and economic operation and maintenance of ADB's engineering services including the implementation of rehabilitation and upgrading projects being undertaken by the Facilities Planning and Management Unit (OAFA-FM).

Reporting Arrangement

The position reports to the Head, OAFA-FM.

Selection Criteria

Specific criteria include: (i) a Bachelor's degree in Engineering; Licensed professional engineer in either Electrical or Mechanical Engineering; (ii) at least ten years of work experience in building engineering and maintenance services within a large organization; (iii) thorough knowledge of multilateral organizations' operation of building services and equipment, maintenance, repair and installation requirements as well as the safety rules and regulations; (iv) extensive theoretical knowledge of engineering techniques and standard software prevalent in multilateral organizations; (v) awareness of the application of Environment Health and Safety Management System in Building Facilities and Engineering Operation; (vi) excellent engineering problem solving skills and proven supervisory experience; and (vii) good command of written and spoken English.

Associate Financial System Analyst

(Ref. No. EXT-AS07-125(4)-CTLA-FIS)

Responsibilities

The position is responsible for taking the functional lead for the various financial information systems of Controller's Loan Administration Division by assisting in the design, development and maintenance of specialized reports; and ensuring smooth and efficient operation of these systems.

Reporting Arrangements

The position reports to the Assistant Controller, designated Professional Staff and/or National Officer.

Selection Criteria

Specific criteria include: (i) a Bachelor degree in Business Administration major in Accounting, Computer Science, or Finance with in-depth knowledge of Information Technology and computer applications; (ii) at least five years experience in business application development, systems designs and analysis with working experience in the use financial information systems; (iii) more than seven years combined on-the-job training with practical experience in system analysis, grants, loans or technical assistance processing; (iv) good understanding of a multilateral institution's operations with knowledge in system analysis and design; (v) proven supervisory, interpersonal and problem-solving capabilities; (vi) proficiency in different computer software commonly used in a multilateral institution; (vii) familiarity with application softwares such as Oracle, Microsoft Word, Excel, Lotus Notes, Lotus Notes Mail and in-depth knowledge of mainframe systems; (viii) excellent oral and written communication skills in English; and (ix) good interpersonal communication and writing skills, and ability to supervise staff and promote team work.

For more details about the position, please see http://www.adb.org/Employment/Local/default.asp.

The Asian Development Bank's vision is a region free of poverty. Established in 1966 and headquartered in Manila, Philippines, ADB's multicultural staff come from over 50 member countries. ADB's Headquarters in Manila generally recruits its national officers locally from the Philippines. The position is for a three-year fixed-term appointment. ADB offers a highly competitive salary and benefits package applicable to local staff. While the position advertised is for ADB Headquarters in Manila, Philippines, ADB staff must be prepared to serve in any location outside its Headquarters at the discretion of Management.

Apply electronically, quoting the Ref. No. of the position and job title on subject line and attaching application form available on www.adb.org/Employment/appform.asp to e-mail address: LS-jobs@adb.org by 9 July 2007.

Due to the expected large number of applications, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Applications lacking the job reference number and job title or using the wrong e-mail address will not be considered.

Asian Development Bank ADB

www.adb.org

Associate Credit Analyst

Responsibilities

The position provides analytical support to a team of Risk Management Specialists, and undertakes risk assessment, monitoring and reporting of ADB's private and public sector loans (debt), investment (equity), and guarantees. Areas of investigation include credit, market and reputational risks.

For more details about the position, please see http://www.adb.org/Employment/Local/default.asp

Reporting Arrangement

The position reports to the Head, Risk Management Unit (RMU) and/or designated Risk Management Specialist.

Selection Criteria

Specific criteria include

- ■ a bachelor degree in Finance and/or Accounting; a CPA, CFA or MBA qualification would be advantageous.
- ■ at least 5 years of relevant work experience in risk management, preferably in a commercial or investment bank.
- ■ proven ability to undertake background research analysis, collect and organize data and information, apply computer skills in analyzing and developing data, and prepare notes, papers and reports.
- ■ strong analytical and creative problem solving skills.
- ■ solid written and oral communication skills.
- ■ demonstrated knowledge and understanding of a multilateral institution's operational processes and procedures.
- ■ ability to function well individually and as part of a team.
- ■ ability to manage priorities in a fast paced environment.

The Asian Development Bank's vision is a region free of poverty. Established in 1966 and headquartered in Manila, Philippines, ADB's multicultural staff come from over 50 member countries. ADB's Headquarters in Manila generally recruits its administrative staff locally from the Philippines. The position is for a three-year fixed-term appointment. ADB offers a highly competitive salary and benefits package applicable to local staff. While the position advertised is for ADB Headquarters in Manila, Philippines, ADB staff must be prepared to serve in any location outside its Headquarters at the discretion of Management.

Apply electronically, quoting **Ref. No. EXT-AS07-091(4)-RMU** and **job title** on subject line and attaching application form available on www.adb.org/Employment/appform.asp to e-mail address: LS-jobs@adb.org by **9 July 2007.**

Due to the expected large number of applications, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Applications lacking the job reference number and job title or using the wrong e-mail address will not be considered.

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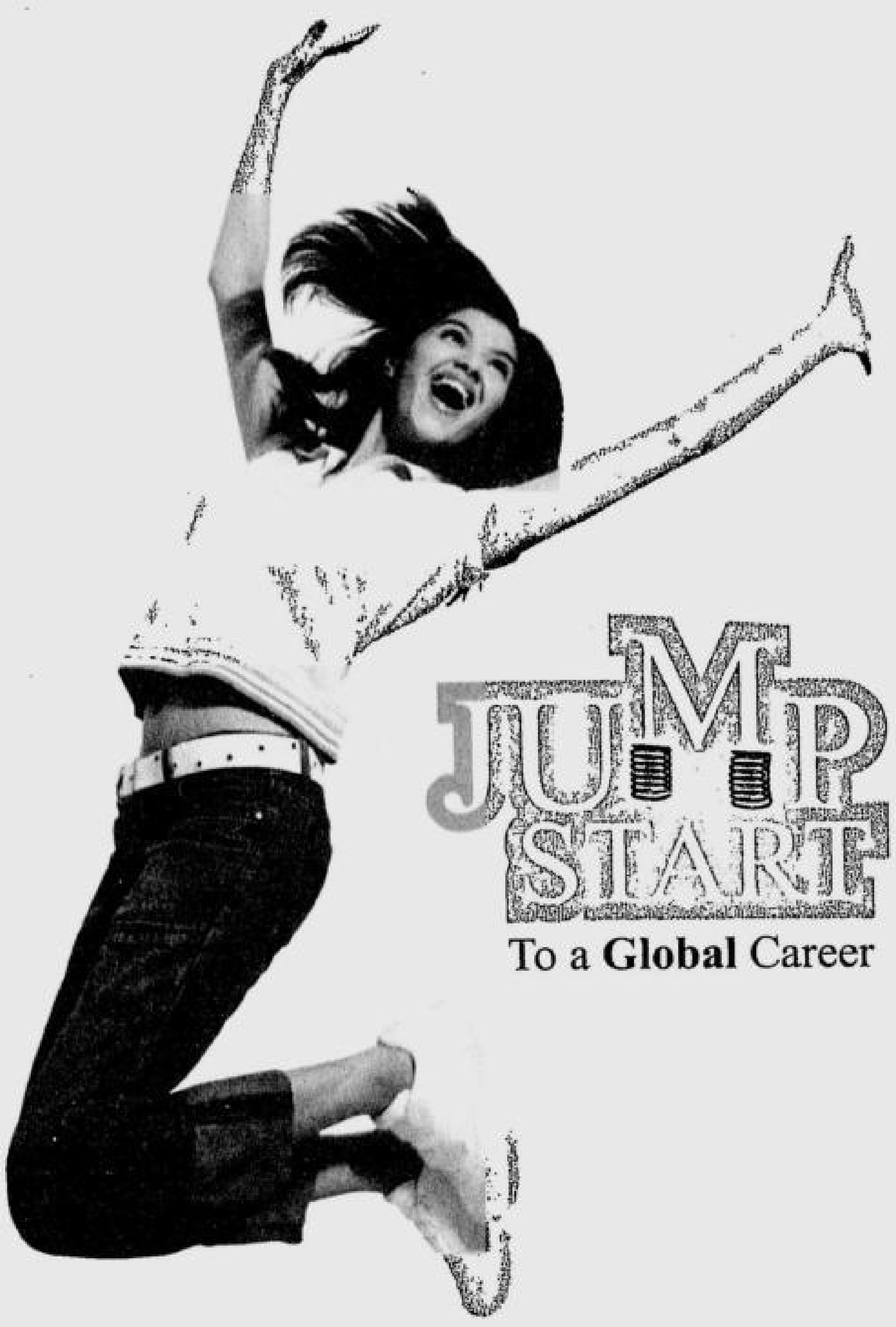
Send resumés by e-mail to **healthdev@yahoo.com**. Visit **www.healthdev-institute.org** for job descriptions. Inquiries at **426-5110**

Apply immediately, hiring by mid July.



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29th Floor Discovery Suites, ADB Avenue
Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1600

Please bring your resume, one 2" x 2" picture, photocopy of your latest payslip (if applicable), and one valid ID.

You may also e-mail your resume to **servicecenterjobs@hsbc.com.ph** or call the Recruitment Hotline at **02 859 4377.**

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Details on advertising in this supplement are as follows:

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Full Page	**7 cols. x 30 cms.**	**P69,300.00**
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Systems Analyst / Programmer

Qualifications:

- College graduate preferably Computer Science or Computer Engineering
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- 1 to 2 years experience in this job or jobs leading to it
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Qualifications:

- Accounting graduate preferably Certified Public Accountant
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Qualifications:

- College graduate or equivalent vocational education
- 1 to 2 years experience in this job or jobs leading to it
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If your supervisors become MORE EFFECTIVE

JUNE 27-28, 1:30- 5:30pm Holiday Inn Galleria

DAY 1 BASIC SUPERVISION

- Introduction to Supervision
- Why Many Supervisors Are Not Effective
- Supervision in a Nutshell
- Common Mistakes Made by Managers and Supervisors
- The Keys to Successful Supervision
- The Supervisor and Office Politics
- Motivating Your People for Result

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Your current supervisors who have not attended a supervisory training for one year
- New supervisors or those who will be promoted soon to a supervisory position
- Informal leaders with unofficial supervisory or team-leader role

DAY 2 ADVANCED SUPERVISION

- Planning and Goal Setting
- Organizing
- Monitoring and Controlling
- Management Style
- Common Problems in Supervision
- Developing your Supervisory Leadership

"INVEST IN YOUR SUPERVISORS AND IMPROVE YOUR BUSINESS"

SEMINAR INVESTMENT

<EARLY BIRD RATE Until June 20>
- **Whole Program** : Php2,290.00 + VAT
- **Per Day** : Php1,245.00 + VAT

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** Seminar investment is inclusive of snacks, handouts and car pass)*

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An amazing shopping experience awaits you

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An AyalaLand community is taking shape in Angeles

MARQUEE PLACE

Ayala Malls
Lovemalls!

Community Innovations
Live the life you deserve
an AyalaLand company

Live Life to the Fullest at MARQUEE ANGELES CITY

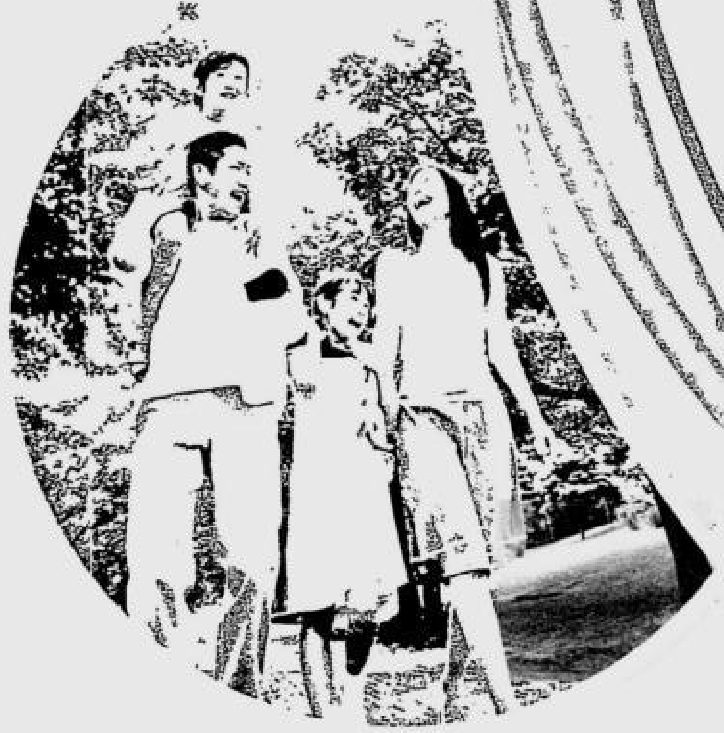
Cosmopolitan living is about to be redefined in Angeles City with an Ayala Land community taking shape. Community Innovations, Ayala Land's standard bearer of innovation in residential living, and Ayala Malls, known for innovative shopping, dining and entertainment experience, unveil the newest lifestyle hub in North Central Luzon.

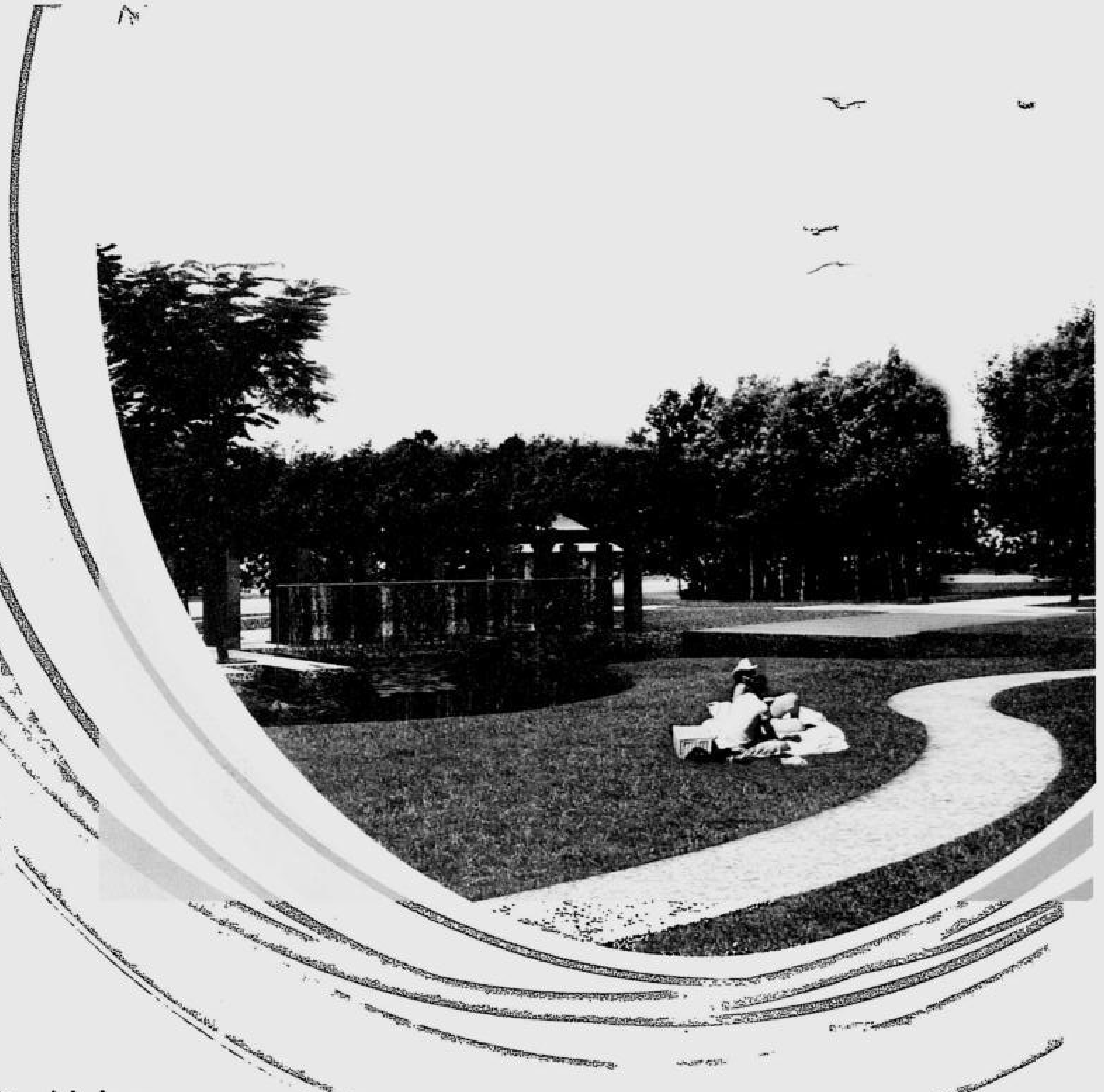
Introducing Marquee. Located minutes from Clark, Pampanga's flourishing commercial district, and easily accessible from Metro Manila via the North Luzon Expressway, Marquee is a pioneering development that fully integrates an upscale residential community with the retail promise of an Ayala Mall. Designed to attract fashion and lifestyle denizens alike, Marquee is expected to be the living and leisure capital of the north.

Q SHOPPING

A Delight to the Senses

Q Shopping is destined to be the region's most sophisticated retail center, a host to life's finer pleasures. Built to strike the perfect balance between urban conveniences and a vibrantly fresh way of living, Q Shopping promises to be the region's favorite gathering place, with a select choice of local and international fashion brands, popular labels, top-notc dining and famil entertainment. Unlike anything ever seen in th north, the global retail excellence Ayala Malls ha delivered in Greenbelt and Glorietta among othe can now be experienced at Q Shopping in Marquee





MARQUEE PLACE

Exploring the Vibrancy of Community Living

Urban lifestyle at its most vibrant, Marquee Place offers contemporary-style homes within an upscale and colorful setting that underscores family relationships, dynamic community living and the pinnacle of convenience.

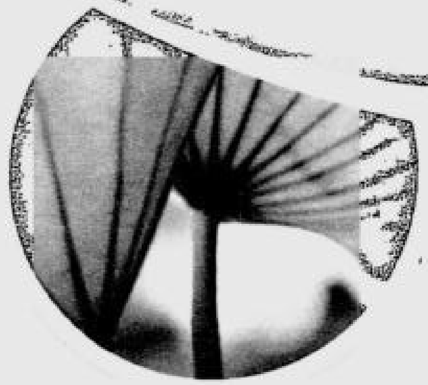
The 35-hectare residential development about to be unveiled by Community Innovations (an Ayala Land company) is an exclusive neighborhood that lets Northern urbanites celebrate life at its peak. Bask in the breathtaking environs reminiscent of genteel country living, featuring a grand entrance, unprecedented open spaces and greens, magnificent pools with private bathing alcoves, lush landscaped parks, tree-lined walks and meandering pathways that lead to relaxing living spaces.

Characterized by its sleek and modern architecture, this latest residential hub remains to be the city's talk of the town. It boasts of its own Sports Pod, ideal for those who want to keep a fit and active lifestyle

This private retreat is the latest offering of Community Innovations, the same developer that has brought to us The Columns, Verdana Homes, Celadon Manila and Two Serendra.

856-1888 cii-sales@ayalaland.com.ph

http://www.communityinnovations.com.ph. | HLURB License to Sell No. 17852



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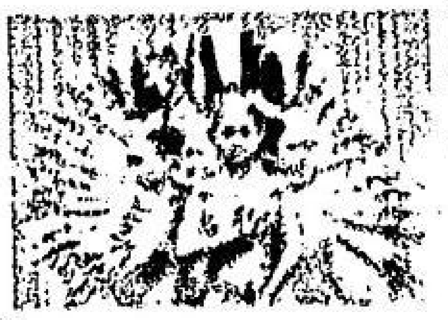
Junior INQUIRER

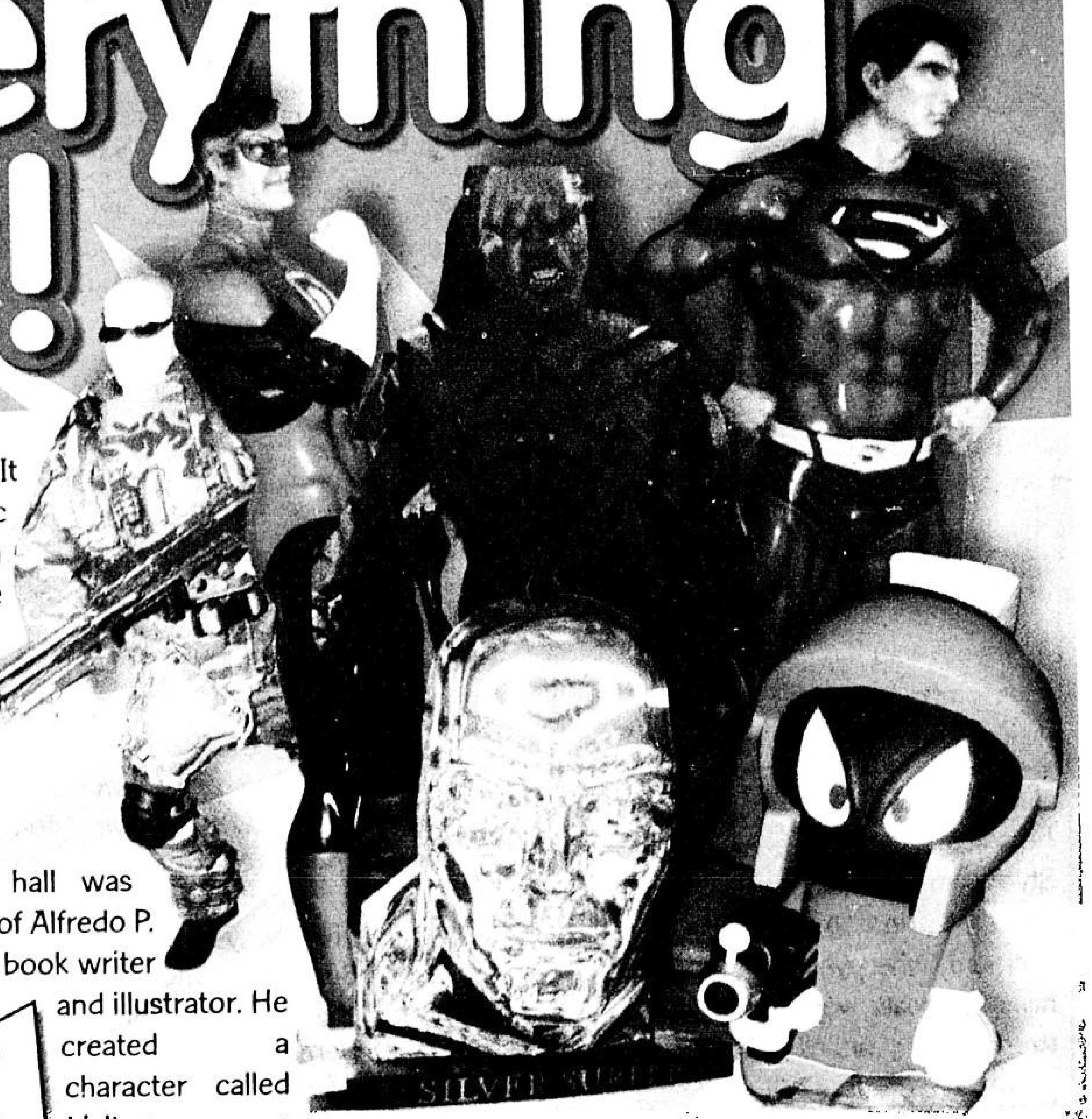
SUNDAY, JUNE 24, 2007 ✦ 8 PAGES ✦ VOLUME 10, NUMBER 65

WHAT'S INSIDE:

Shake a thousand hands in Wassup World Page 5



Drop everything and play!



Text and photos by Ruth L. Navarra

WHEN WILL YOU EVER BE TOO OLD to play with toys? Never!

Last week, toy fans of all ages gathered for the 6th Philippine Toys, Hobbies and Collectibles Convention at the Megatrade Hall of SM Megamall. There was something for everyone as the booths sold every toy imaginable—from old action figures dating back to your father's childhood, to shiny new sculptures of the Silver Surfer from the recent "Fantastic Four" movie.

"I got excited when I saw the life-size figures of action heroes! It's like standing next to Superman and Batman themselves," says 8-year-old Niel Michael Pandi.

Transformer robots were a hit, both as toys and as costumes. Costume players took great pains to replicate the look of autobots and decepticons. What seemed like an ordinary huge *balikbayan* box sitting in a corner started moving when someone shouted "Transform!". It slowly rose in a robotic fashion until it stood on its own feet. The cos-player didn't get the best costume award, but he got the most laughs of appreciation.

A portion of the hall was dedicated to the works of Alfredo P. Alcala, a Filipino comic book writer and illustrator. He created a character called Voltar, a barbarian hero. But, he was more known for inking "Swamp Thing" for DC Comics and "Conan the Barbarian" for Marvel.

Inking is a step in making comics wherein an artist goes over in ink what another artist has already drawn in pencil.

While some simply ogled at the toys displayed, serious collectors took the opportunity to hunt for new additions to their gallery of toys. And we're not just talking about kid collectors!

Jojo Nicolas, who is already in his 40's, has been collecting Matchboxes and Hot Wheels for 25 years! His passion started when he was in grade school. He would cut out print advertisements for cars, until his mom bought him a scale-model car. He would then save his allowance money to buy other car collectibles.

"When I started buying matchboxes, they were only two pesos. Now I can sell the same cars for as much as P1,500!" he says. Over time, the value of some toys can go up, especially if they're in mint condition. Toys that are in "mint condition" are not damaged in any way. Usually, they are still sealed in their original boxes.

But collector Milo Pascual doesn't believe in keeping his Batman action figures inside boxes. "The whole point of buying toys is so you could enjoy them, play with them."

Both Jojo and Milo say that even though they're all grown up now, they still buy toys because it reminds them of the fun they had when they were children. And judging from the people who came to the toy convention, no one is in a hurry to stop playing!

Think Out Loud!

Guyito's Corral

WELCOME TO MY CORRAL! This is your own special space, where you can express your thoughts and feelings about anything under the sun in the form of essays, poems, letters and even illustrations!

Send all contributions to ji@inquirer.com.ph. Don't forget to indicate your full name, age and the city where you live. We'll be waiting!

Have you ever made your own toy?

I made a ball out of recycled newspaper. My friends and I played "pass" with it.—**Christel Dinalagan**, 9 years old, Metro Manila

I made my own flip animation of a chicken eating. My friends and I enjoyed watching it!—**Kristina Cassandra Panes**, 11 years old, Malate, Manila

I made a boat out of Styrofoam. I play with it in our backyard whenever it rains; it floats very well.—**Roel Romero**, 10 years old, Paco, Manila

I made an origami of a swan. My swan flew more gracefully than a paper plane!—**Ian Aquino**, 10 years old, Paco, Manila

I made a paper mache of a pilandok, the Philippine mouse deer.—**Leona Rose Francisco**, 12 years old, Manila

Sam the Dreamer

Journal

By Leean Tria, 12 years old

SAM IS A DOG. BUT HE doesn't act like one. He's very smart. And when he thinks of something to do, he will do it!

He really belongs to my tita. We adopted him when my tita went to the US. When he lived at my tita's place he was free to roam around, and would just come back when it was time to eat, sleep, or rest.

But when we adopted him, everything changed for Sam. He was not allowed to roam around. He had to learn to be happy playing inside our yard.

At first, he always seemed content. But when my tita came for a short visit, I think he remembered being free.

That's when he started to be a dreamer. He had a dream, and he made it happen.

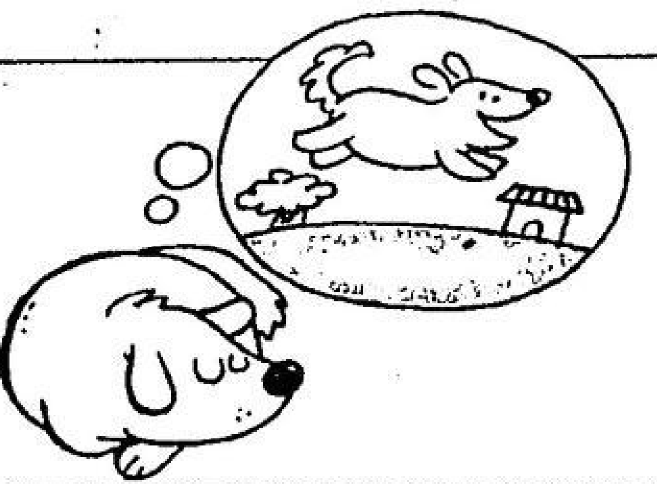
Well, you might be thinking, "Why? What did Sam do?" Well I'll tell you.

He learned to open the gate with his nose. When we put him inside his kennel, he would still manage to get out. When he wanted to get out of the house, he would squeeze himself through the tiny squares of our gate. He would come back sooner or later, and would scratch the gate so he would let him in.

It must have hurt going through the gate, and Sam became thinner. But he continued doing it because he had put his heart into it. He wanted to be free! When he's out there, Sam has many friends. He would roam around the village with four or five other dogs.

Now, dogs are not allowed to roam around the village anymore. We made another gate with no space for him to squeeze through. Now, Sam likes sleeping near the gate so he can see the great outdoors. He jumps up and down to see what's out there. He only gets to go out when we take walks.

We won't be surprised if one day, Sam would be able to figure out how to jump over the gate. After all, Sam is a dreamer. And when he dreams, he finds ways to make it happen.



dear JI! Letters

Greetings from Iloilo City!

I am excited every Sunday because of Sunday School and the Junior Inquirer. My favorite JI section is "Wassup World?". It's nice to know what's happening in other places like Iligan City, Sorsogon, Indonesia, Singapore and many more. It's also nice of you to tell us kids what's going on with celebrities and other students.

My Sunday is also not complete without reading "Pugad Baboy". Tatay, Nanay and I read the comics together and have a good laugh.

Thanks for keeping us informed and entertained. Keep up the good work!

—Charmaine Anne Servigon-Malata
9 years old, Iloilo City

We're glad we make your Sundays exciting, Charmaine! As our way of saying thanks, we're giving you this Bratz duffel bag. Hope to hear from you again!

You win!

Junior INQUIRER

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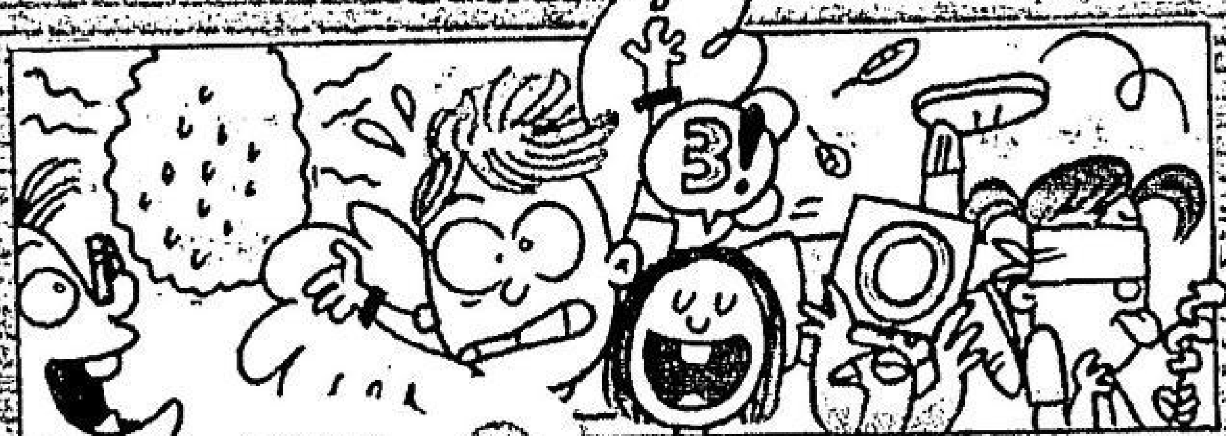

Enjoying everything Pinoy!

By Marianna Ilagan, 13 years old

HAVE YOU EVER BRAVED THE LEGENDARY ODOR OF THE durian long enough for you and two friends to consume an entire kilo of it—without using your hands? Or jumped on one leg and acted like a rooster?

All the participants of the CISV Junior Branch "Just Enjoying Everything Pinoy" (or JB JEEP for short) experienced all of these things and more on May 26 at the University of the Philippines Diliman campus.

CISV, or Children's International Summer Villages, is an international organization that seeks to achieve world peace through global friendship, starting with the youth. The CISV Junior Branch, whose members are young people aged 12 to 24, holds annual activities that promote appreciation for other cultures, as well as our own.

The JEEP was a day-long "Amazing Race" type of event. There were thirteen teams of four children and one adult each. Teams earned points by completing different physical, mental, and gastronomical challenges.

The CISV Junior Branch

All aboard!

What a puzzling situation!

Gastronomical = food + culture

That's my nose!

And were they challenges! Imagine attempting to grab as many objects you can from a rapidly moving pabitin while watching out for your ankles because you also happen to be dancing tinikling. Try answering 40 random questions about our country in four minutes. (For example, in degrees Celsius, what is the coldest temperature ever recorded in Baguio City? Answer: 3 degrees). And good luck with tasting then identifying different Filipino street food like isaw (pig intestines) and kwek-kwek (quail eggs)!

All in all, it was a satisfying and enriching experience for me. As an organizer, I learned new things and met new people. With the just-challenging-enough challenges, good weather, magnanimous sponsors and enthusiastic racers, it was a success! I can't wait to see what next year's race brings.

RAGNAROK

BY LEVEL-UP GAMES

WILL YOUR GUILD REPRESENT THE PHILIPPINES AT THE RAGNAROK WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP 2007 IN KOREA? FOR MORE DETAILS, PLEASE VISIT HTTP://WWW.RAGNAROK.PH

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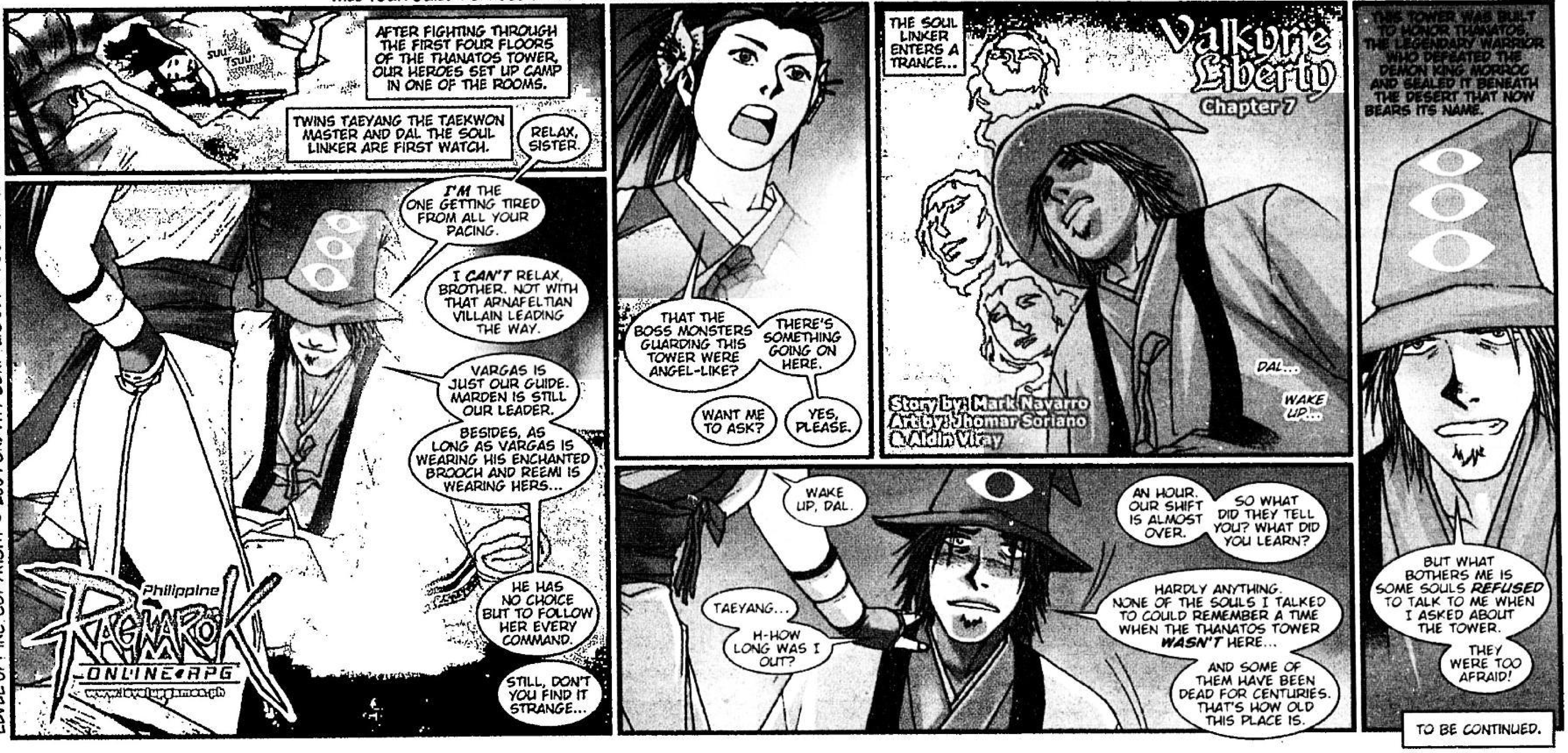
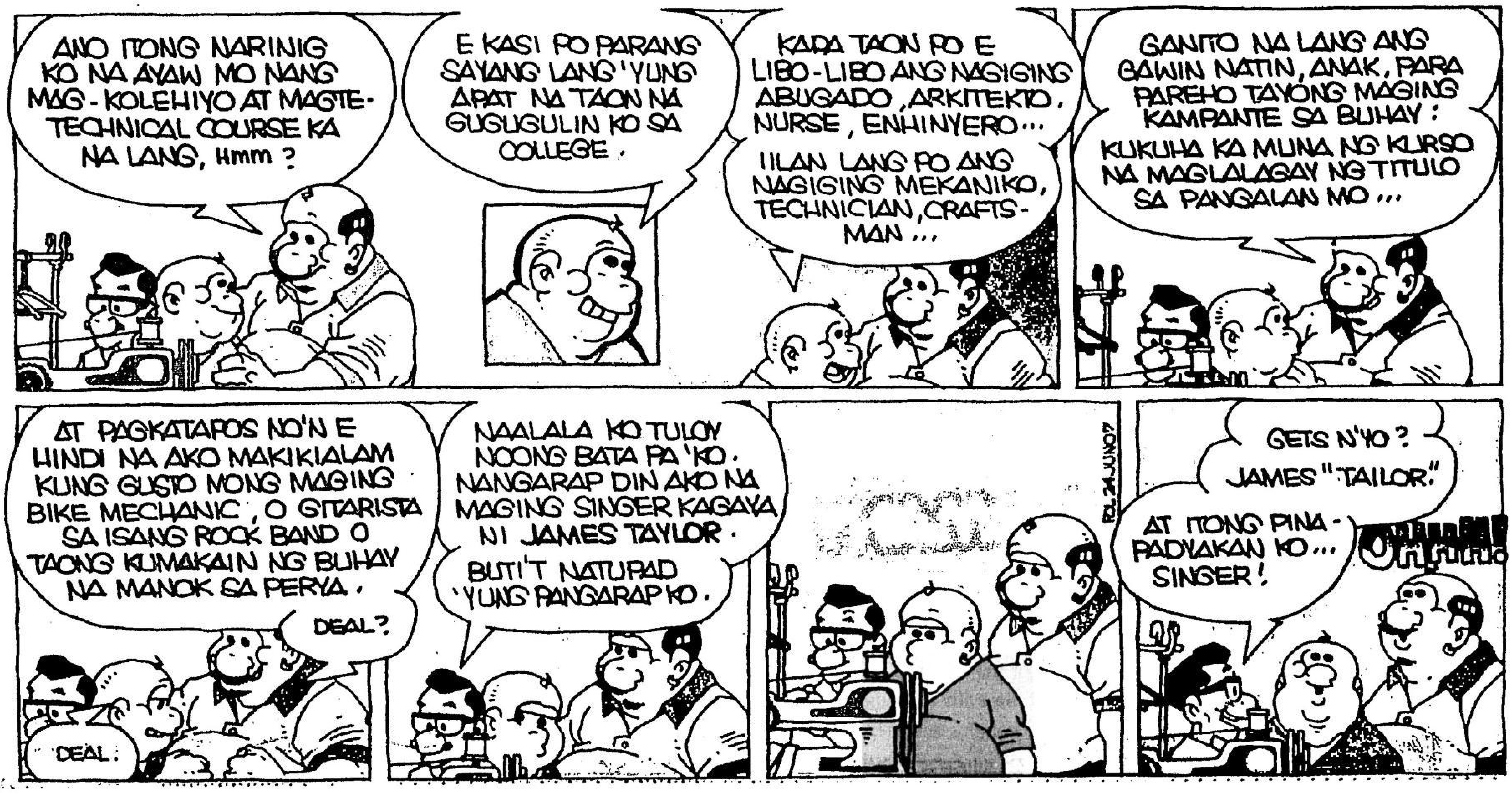

SUU... TSUU...
AFTER FIGHTING THROUGH THE FIRST FOUR FLOORS OF THE THANATOS TOWER, OUR HEROES SET UP CAMP IN ONE OF THE ROOMS.
TWINS TAEYANG THE TAEKWON MASTER AND DAL THE SOUL LINKER ARE FIRST WATCH.
RELAX, SISTER.
I'M THE ONE GETTING TIRED FROM ALL YOUR PACING.
I CAN'T RELAX, BROTHER. NOT WITH THAT ARNAFELTIAN VILLAIN LEADING THE WAY.
VARGAS IS JUST OUR GUIDE. MARDEN IS STILL OUR LEADER.
BESIDES, AS LONG AS VARGAS IS WEARING HIS ENCHANTED BROOCH AND REEMI IS WEARING HERS...
HE HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO FOLLOW HER EVERY COMMAND.
STILL, DON'T YOU FIND IT STRANGE...
Philippine RAGNAROK ONLINE RPG
www.levelupgames.ph
THAT THE BOSS MONSTERS GUARDING THIS TOWER WERE ANGEL-LIKE?
THERE'S SOMETHING GOING ON HERE.
WANT ME TO ASK?
YES, PLEASE.
THE SOUL LINKER ENTERS A TRANCE...
Valkyrie Liberty
Chapter 7
Story by: Mark Navarro
Art by: Jhomar Soriano & Aldin Viray
DAL...
WAKE UP...
WAKE UP, DAL.
TAEYANG...
H-HOW LONG WAS I OUT?
AN HOUR. OUR SHIFT IS ALMOST OVER.
SO WHAT DID THEY TELL YOU? WHAT DID YOU LEARN?
HARDLY ANYTHING. NONE OF THE SOULS I TALKED TO COULD REMEMBER A TIME WHEN THE THANATOS TOWER WASN'T HERE...
AND SOME OF THEM HAVE BEEN DEAD FOR CENTURIES. THAT'S HOW OLD THIS PLACE IS.
THIS TOWER WAS BUILT TO HONOR THANATOS, THE LEGENDARY WARRIOR WHO DEFEATED THE DEMON KING MORROC AND SEALED IT BENEATH THE DESERT THAT NOW BEARS ITS NAME.
BUT WHAT BOTHERS ME IS SOME SOULS REFUSED TO TALK TO ME WHEN I ASKED ABOUT THE TOWER.
THEY WERE TOO AFRAID!
TO BE CONTINUED.

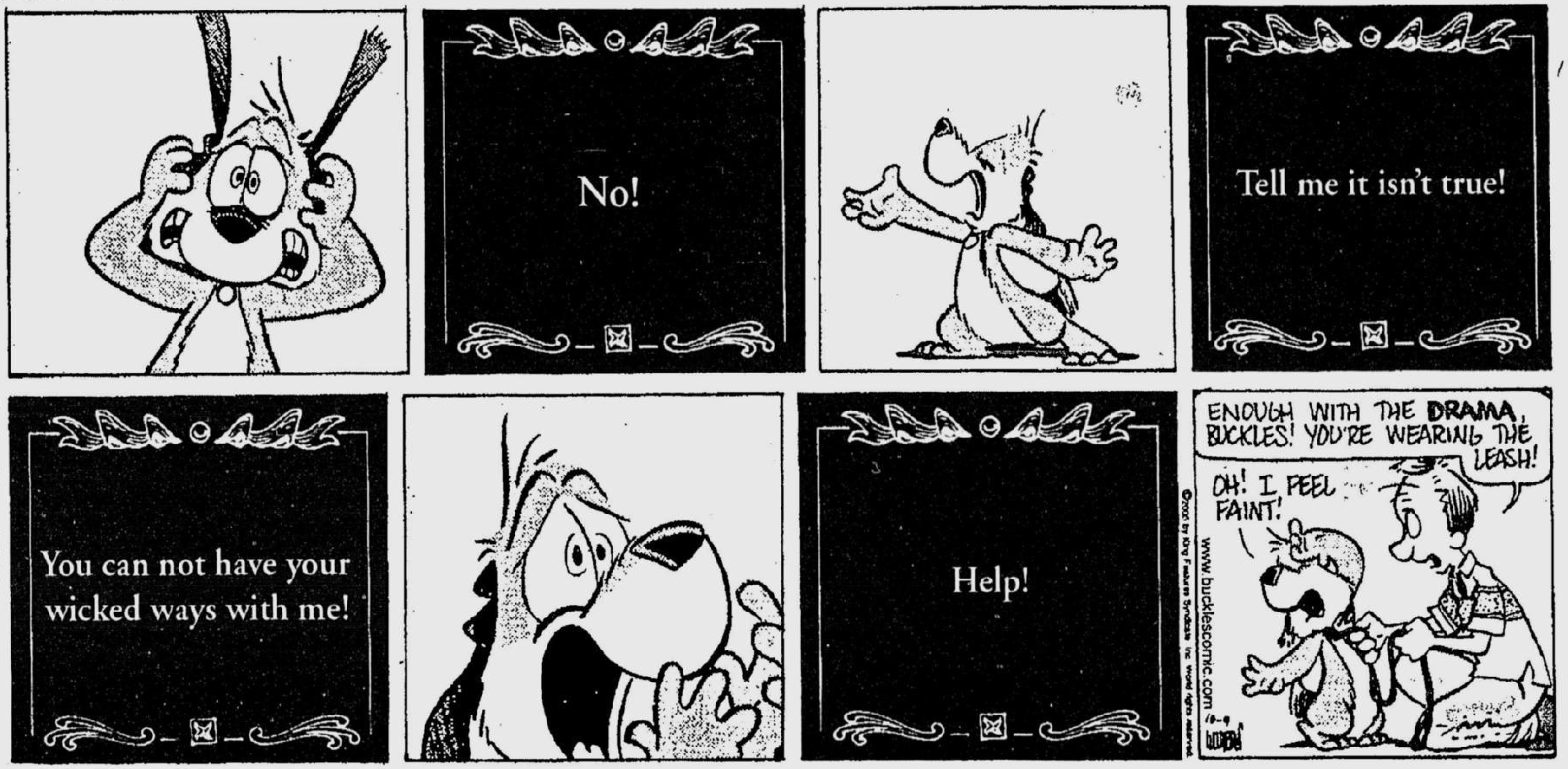
PUGAD BABOY

BY POL MEDINA JR.


ANO ITONG NARINIG KO NA AYAW MO NANG MAG-KOLEHIYO AT MAGTE-TECHNICAL COURSE KA NA LANG, Hmm?
E KASI PO PARANG SAYANG LANG 'YUNG APAT NA TAON NA GUGUGULIN KO SA COLLEGE.
KADA TAON PO E LIBO-LIBO ANG NAGIGING ABUGADO, ARKITEKTO, NURSE, ENHINYERO...
IILAN LANG PO ANG NAGIGING MEKANIKO, TECHNICIAN, CRAFTS-MAN...
GANITO NA LANG ANG GAWIN NATIN, ANAK, PARA PAREHO TAYONG MAGING KAMPANTE SA BUHAY:
KUKUHA KA MUNA NG KURSO NA MAGLALAGAY NG TITULO SA PANGALAN MO...
AT PAGKATAPOS NO'N E HINDI NA AKO MAKIKIALAM KUNG GUSTO MONG MAGING BIKE MECHANIC, O GITARISTA SA ISANG ROCK BAND O TAONG KUMAKAIN NG BUHAY NA MANOK SA PERYA.
DEAL?
DEAL.
NAALALA KO TULOY NOONG BATA PA 'KO. NANGARAP DIN AKO NA MAGING SINGER KAGAYA NI JAMES TAYLOR.
BUTI'T NATUPAD 'YUNG PANGARAP KO.
POL 24JUN07
GETS N'YO?
JAMES "TAILOR."
AT ITONG PINA-PADYAKAN KO... SINGER!
Uhuuu

BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT


No!
Tell me it isn't true!
You can not have your wicked ways with me!
Help!
ENOUGH WITH THE DRAMA, BUCKLES! YOU'RE WEARING THE LEASH!
OH! I FEEL FAINT!
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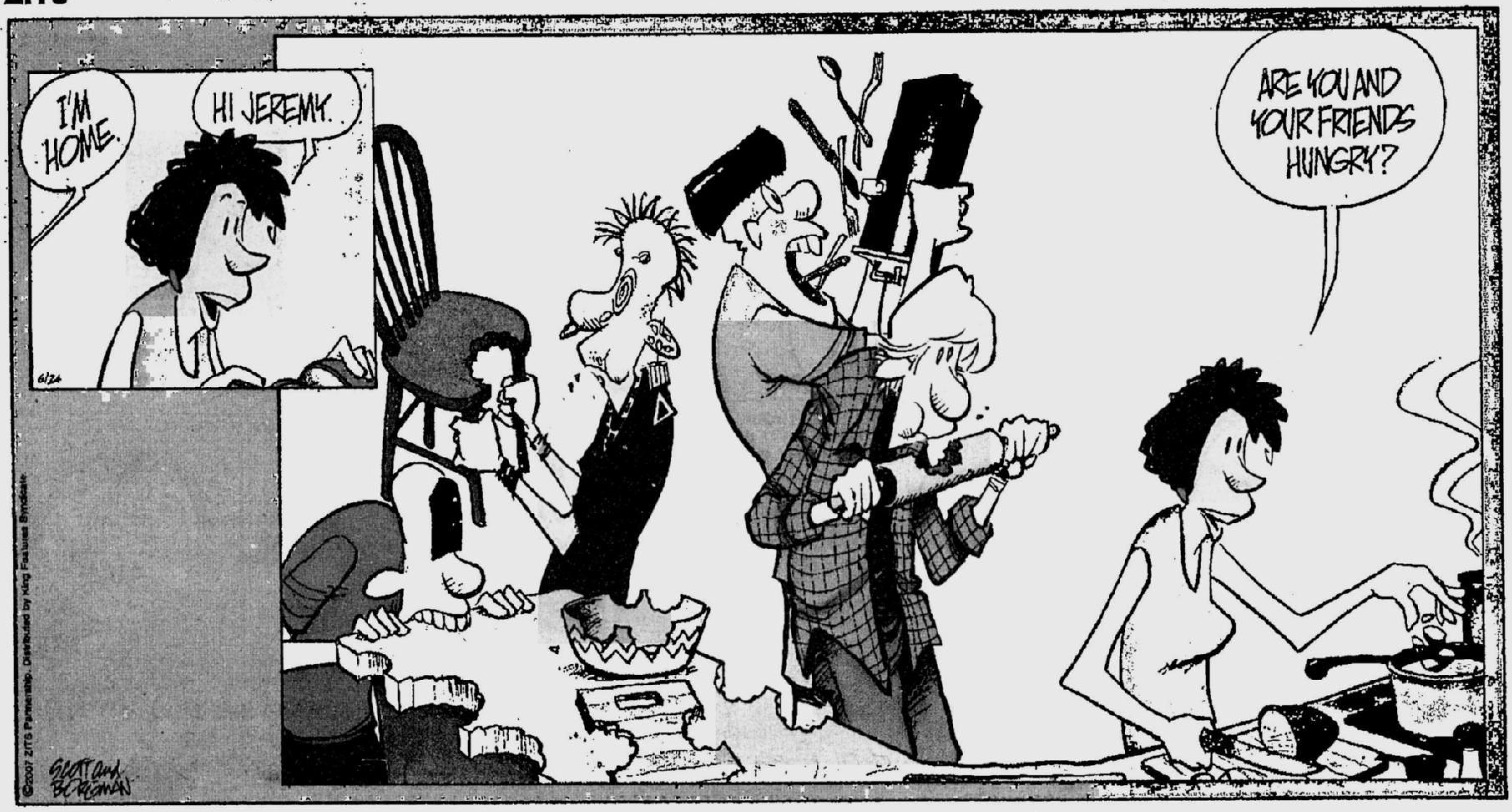
www.bucklescomic.com
10-9

ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN


I'M HOME.
HI JEREMY.
6/24
ARE YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS HUNGRY?
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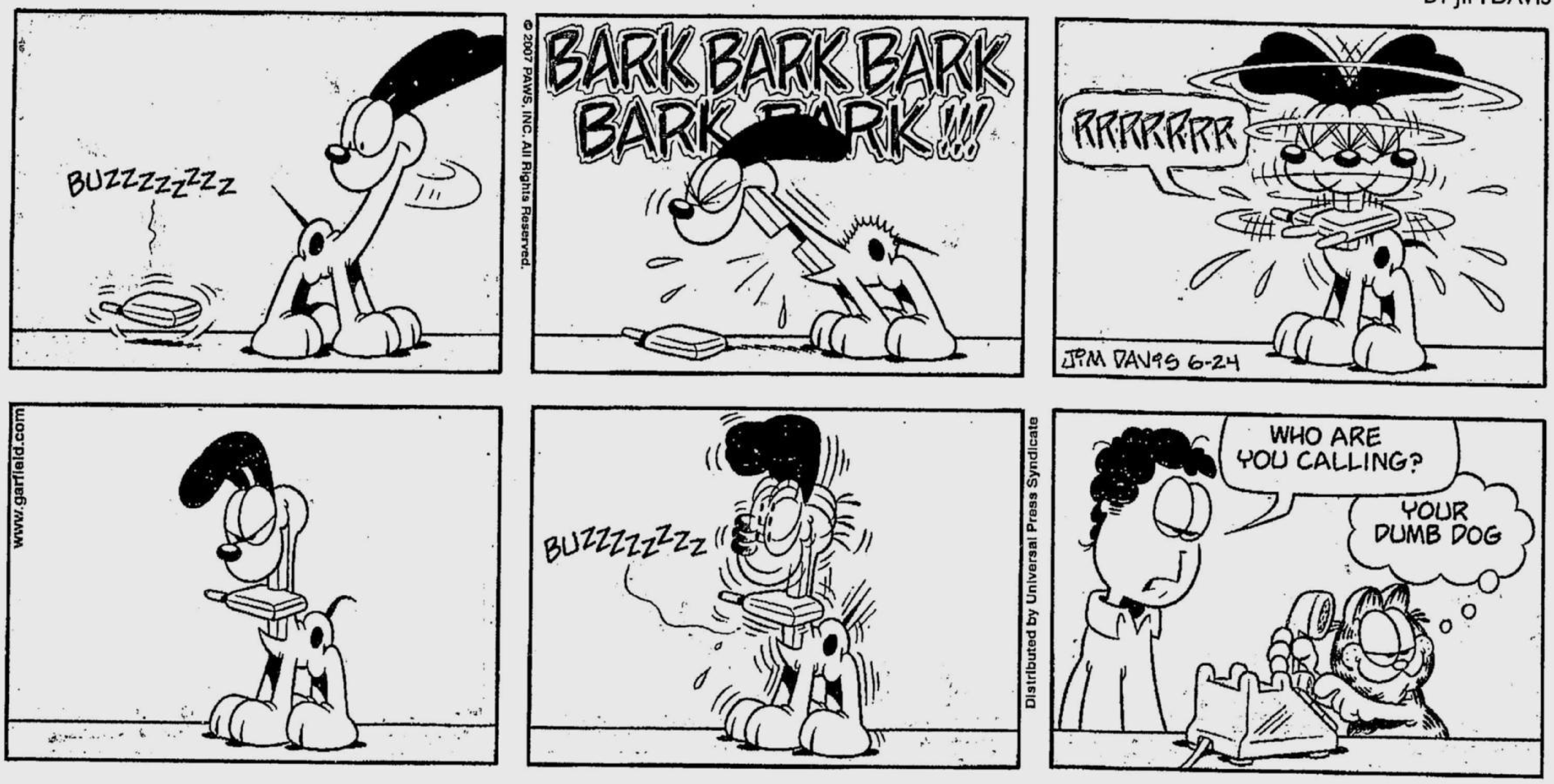
SCOTT and BORGMAN

INQUIRER COMICS Sunday
SUNDAY, JUNE 24, 2007

GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


BUZZZZZZZZ
BARK BARK BARK BARK BARK !!!
RRRRRRR
JIM DAVIS 6-24
www.garfield.com
BUZZZZZZZZZ
WHO ARE YOU CALLING?
YOUR DUMB DOG

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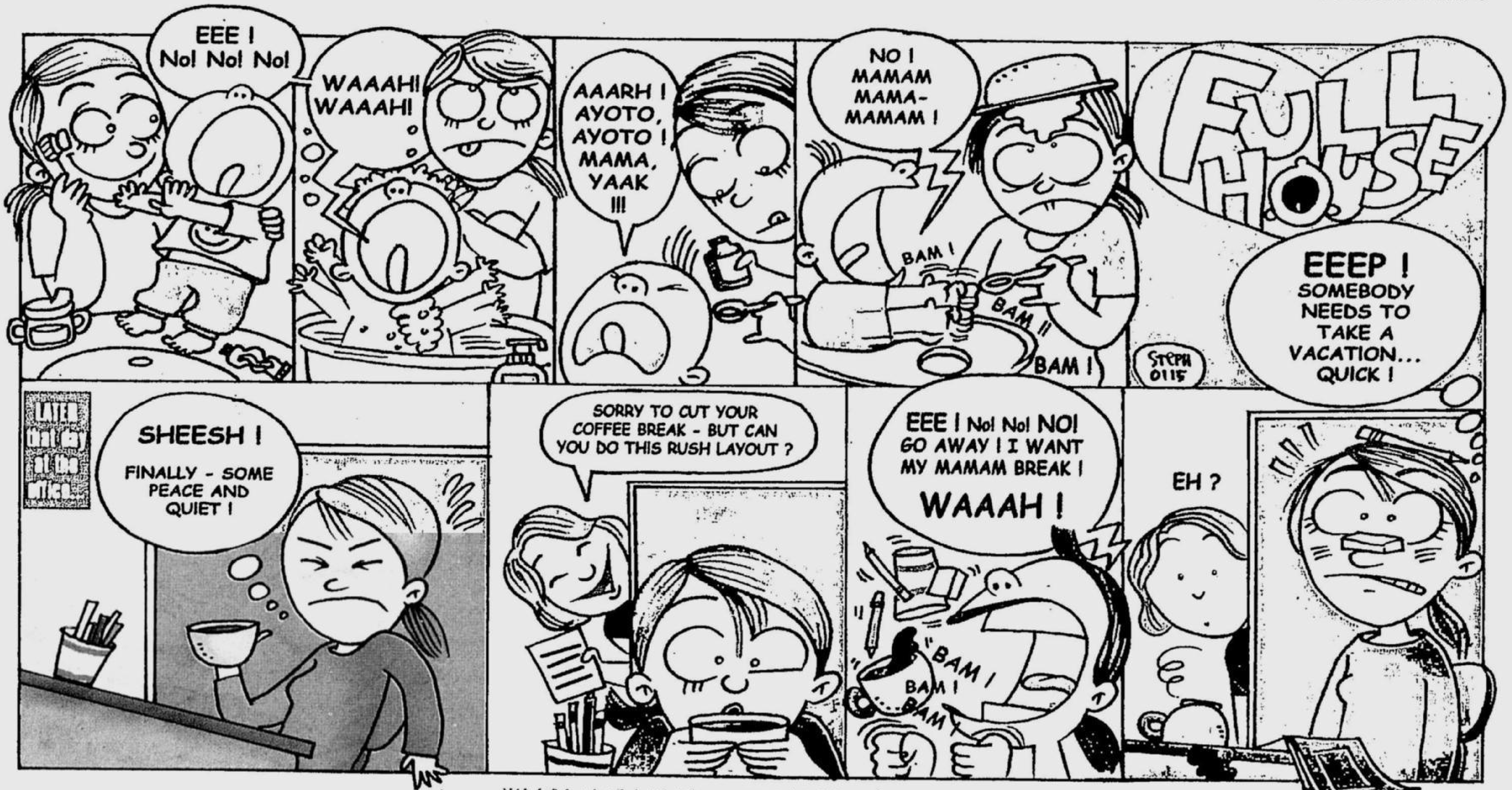
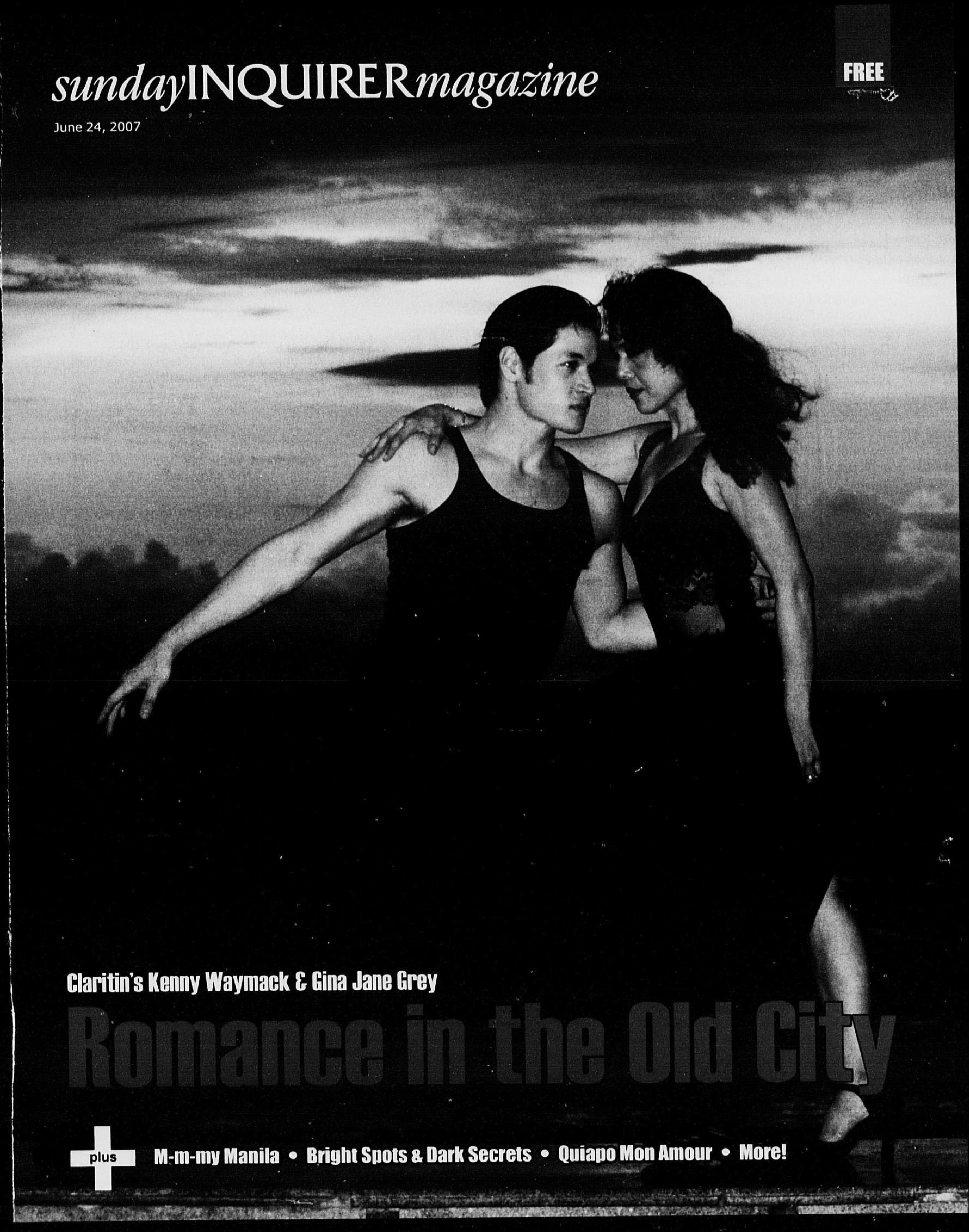
FULL HOUSE

BY STEPH BRAVO


EEE ! No! No! No!
WAAAH! WAAAH!
AAARH ! AYOTO, AYOTO ! MAMA, YAAK !!!
NO ! MAMAM MAMA- MAMAM !
BAM !
BAM !!
BAM !
STEPH 0115
FULL HOUSE
EEEP ! SOMEBODY NEEDS TO TAKE A VACATION... QUICK !
LATER that day at the office
SHEESH ! FINALLY - SOME PEACE AND QUIET !
SORRY TO CUT YOUR COFFEE BREAK - BUT CAN YOU DO THIS RUSH LAYOUT ?
EEE ! No! No! NO! GO AWAY ! I WANT MY MAMAM BREAK ! WAAAH !
BAM !
BAM !
BAM !
EH ?

sundayINQUIRERmagazine
June 24, 2007

FREE



Claritin's Kenny Waymack & Gina Jane Grey

Romance in the Old City

plus M-m-my Manila • Bright Spots & Dark Secrets • Quiapo Mon Amour • More!

By Anna Katrina M. Martinez
Photos: Public Information Office, Supreme Court

From the Heart of Manila to the Country's History Books

For 106 years now, the country's Supreme Court has been the last resort of people involved in some of the most sensational and controversial cases in the land. Seven recent cases merited significant decisions that just might change the country's political history

IN THE heart of Manila just a stone's throw away from the bohemian bars and clubs that crowd Malate and Ermita, sits the highest court of the land—the Supreme Court of the Philippines.

The institution—the final forum for appeal in the Philippine justice system—has always made Manila its home through all of its 106-year history. Ensconced in a rather noisy and bustling area, its present building on Padre Faura street is an example of neo-classicism with perfect symmetry. Built in 1930, the edifice's stately façade is dominated by Ionic or scroll-topped pillars. Posted on both sides are larger-than-life Jullie Lluch sculptures of the Republic's first Chief Justice, Cayetano Arellano, and Jose Abad Santos, the fifth Chief Justice who was executed by the Japanese during World War II for refusing to swear allegiance to the Japanese Government.

Established on June 11, 1901 by the Second Philippine Commission, the Supreme Court moved from its original home at the corner of Calle Arzobispo and Calle Palacio within the walls of Old Manila, to a temporary office within the Malacañang Palace compound right after the war. In 1948, the Court acquired and renovated the former Villamor Hall or the College of Fine Arts and Conservatory of the University of the Philippines at the corner of Faura Street and Taft Avenue.

In its 106 years of existence, the Court has been defined by its actions and by the justices who have penned its decisions. It has directed the course of Philippine history during the most critical times. Philippine history, in fact, can be read through the carefully-crafted judicial opinions of the High Court justices, their landmark decisions tracing the first exercises and the final triumph of judicial power in the Philippine political system.

Among its defining moments were the following: upholding the establishment of the military and civil governments by the Americans in 1901; sustaining the organization of the Philippine Executive Commission by the Commander of the Japanese forces in 1942; confirming the independence and sovereign status of the Philippines as a state in 1946; favoring the extension of President Marcos's term of office in 1973; affirming the ascension to power of the Aquino administration in 1986, and validating the legitimacy of the Arroyo presidency in 2001.

The final forum for justice in the country

So far, High Court has had 22 chief justices and 158 associate justices. By the very nature of the Court's functions, justices are subject only to their own conscience and beliefs. The magistrates of the Court invariably decide cases on the basis of their own values, prejudices, economics, sociology, morals, theology, and philosophy.

In the first seven years of this millennium, the High Court has come out with several significant decisions, among them:

1. **Estrada v. Desierto (2 March 2001, Puno, J [now CJ].).** Considered "[t]he most important and far-reaching decision of the first 100 years of the Philippine Supreme Court," Estrada v. Desierto upheld the assumption of the presidency of then Vice President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo after the Court ruled that the then incumbent president had resigned.

2. **Senate v. Ermita (20 April 2006, Carpio Morales, *J.*).** In a unanimous 14-0 vote, with one Justice on leave, the Supreme Court upheld the right of Congress to compel the appearance of executive officials in congressional inquiries in aid of legislation by partially voiding Executive Order No. 464, which had previously required presidential clearance before these officials could do so.

3. **Bayan v. Ermita (25 April 2006, Azcuna, *J.*).** In a 13-0 decision, the High Court declared as null and void the "Calibrated Preemptive Response" (CPR) policy of the Arroyo government regarding rallies, even as it upheld regulations on the right to rally, including the permit requirement, under the Public Assembly Act of 1985 (BP 880).

4. **David v. Macapagal-Arroyo (3 May 2006, Sandoval-Gutierrez, *J.*).** The Court held that Presidential Proclamation 1017 (PP 1017) was constitutional insofar as it constituted a call by the President for the AFP to prevent or suppress lawless violence. However, the court ruled as unconstitutional the extraneous provisions of PP 1017 giving the President express or implied power to: (1) issue decrees; (2) direct the AFP to enforce obedience to all laws even those not related to lawless violence as well as decrees promulgated by the President; and (3) impose standards on media or any form of prior restraint on the press.

The Court also ruled that under Section 17, Article XII of the 1987 Constitution, the President, in the absence of a legislation, cannot take over privately-owned public utility and private business affected with public interest.

Also declared unconstitutional were the warrantless arrest of Randolf S. David and Ronald Llamas; the dispersal and warrantless arrest of the KMU and NAFLU-KMU members during their rallies, in the absence of proof that they were committing acts constituting lawless violence, invasion or rebellion and violating BP 880; the imposition of standards on media or any form of prior restraint on the press, as well as the warrantless search of the Tribune offices and whimsical seizure of its articles for publication and other materials.

(continued on page 13)

I'm SO Back!

SEXY by marie france

894-BODY

MAKATI ORTIGAS TOMAS MORATO BINONDO ALABANG SHAW CONGRESSIONAL PAMPANGA • TEL: 961-2981 CEBU • TEL: 233-7637

By Margaux Salcedo
Photographs by Ibba Rasul Bernardo

Chinatown

It's the only place where the richest of the rich and the poorest of the poor enjoy the same great, simple meals. It is truly one of the best spots Manila has to offer

***Xie Bing Chinese Pancakes*: Fried omelettes filled with ground pork (above). Brewed to a T: The right way to make tea (left)**

THERE is nothing more colorful, more culturally rich, more full of flavor than a state's Chinatown. It is the center of cackle, commercialism, clothing, and of course, Chinese cuisine.

They say that you haven't really eaten Chinese food until you've been to China. And it's true because, to borrow the late food writer Doreen Fernandez's famous words: Chinese food in the Philippines has been "indigenized" through the years. The *hopia*, for example, a bean-filled pastry, is not a Chinese delicacy but a Chinese-Filipino concoction introduced by Fujianese immigrants in the 1800s. Pancit is another example of a Filipino dish of Chinese origin. Derived from the word *pian i sit*, which translates to "something cooked fast," this dish has taken on many Filipino forms: *bihon, canton, habhab, luglog, malabon, molo,* and *palabok,* to name the more popular ones.

But Chinatown does have a few secrets that are great discoveries for the food *conquistador*, and Ivan Dy of Old Manila Walks—literally, a walking tour of Old Manila, including Binondo and San Miguel—was kind enough to open the door for me to some of the less known joints that Manila has to offer. "Forget President Restaurant," he said, "everyone knows President's. I'll show you the real Chinatown."

And he did. To warm our tummies and get us on a caffeine high for the walk, we visited a tea shop that served different kinds of tea. This place still cannot compare, of course, to the tea shops in China or Hong Kong, but the selection was impressive and the women who attended to us were very accommodating, teaching us non-tea drinkers the correct practice of drinking tea. Apparently, it isn't as simple as pouring hot water and throwing in the Lipton bag. You brew the tea leaves with hot or boiling water using a tea strainer to catch the leaves when the tea is poured. But you drink the second, and never the first pour; the first is used just to clean the pot!

To go with the tea, we next had some authentic Chinese dimsum. *Dim Sum*, apparently is a Chinese phrase which means, literally, "touch the heart." But translated into food lingo, it is an invitation to eat to your heart's content. Ivan brought me to a little dimsum place that serves not your regular *har kaw* or *hakaw* but northern Chinese dumplings called *dong pei*. It uses ground pork and because it was made before my eyes—that's as fresh as fresh can get—I had enough pork to qualify me as a pig.

I was also introduced to *Xie Bing*, which Ivan calls Chinese pancakes. These are like omelettes with ground pork inside but much smaller and flatter. It is a great light afternoon snack.

If you care for healthier fare, though, just walk down Salazar street, which has rows and rows of fruits. Or Benavidez for amazing *bicho-bicho* (crullers), another indigenized Chinese pastry. Or Ongpin's Eng Bee Tin for *hopia*.

Most memorable for me that afternoon, in fact, was the *hopia*. Not so much because of the food experience because duhhh, I've had *hopia* many times in my life, but because of the story behind Eng Bee Tin's *ube hopia*. *Ube hopia* is one prime example of indigenized food. Back when Rizal was alive (just picture him on a *kalesa* in Manila in his tux eating *hopia* while thinking of *tsokolate a* and *e*) or maybe a little later, there was only *hopiang munggo*, mongo bean paste, and *hopiang baboy*, which has pork backfat. Then in the 1990s, Gerry Chua, a third generation *hopia* maker, decided to try something new to revive their dying *hopia* business. He introduced a flavor more suited to the Filipino palate, the *ube hopia*. To make a long story fit this page, the *ube* clicked, business boomed and today they are experimenting with other flavors as well and exporting *hopiang ube* around the world!

Chinatown, horse dung stench included, never fails. It is bustling with all the fervor of life and the very best of Chinese food. It is the only place where you will find the richest of the rich and the poorest of the poor enjoying the same great, simple meals. It is truly one of the best spots Manila has to offer. •

By Tony Maghirang

First! Best! Most!

15 more reasons why the Ever-Loyal City is distinguished, way before the Guinness Book of World Records upped the competition

Spires of steel: The San Sebastian Church

1. Manila was the most devastated city in the world war against Japan, second only to Warsaw in the world war against Germany.

2. The first bank in Southeast Asia was also the first private commercial bank in the Philippines. El Banco Español Filipino de Isabel 2 was established in Manila on August 1, 1851.

3. The first trans-Pacific commercial exchange between Asia, America and Europe was the Galleon Trade originating from Manila to Acapulco. It lasted for about 250 years.

4. In 1571, the first parochial church of Manila was built on a site where a Muslim settlement once stood. Made of nipa and bamboo, it became the Manila Cathedral on December 1, 1581 by authority of a Papal Bull.

5. The San Sebastian Church located at Plaza del Carmen, Quiapo is the first all-steel church in the Philippines and second in the world. It was prefabricated in Belgium and built from completely knocked-down parts in 1883.

6. Salon de Pertierra located at No. 12 Escolta was the first movie house in the country where on New Year's Day 1897, a short French film was shown through the efforts of a Spaniard named Pertierra.

7. Aside from Manila hemp or abaca, other world-renowned products bearing the name of the distinguished city are Manila cigars, Manila paper, and Manila envelopes.

8. In 1631, the Spanish government established and operated the first bakery in Manila.

9. The Farola, the first lighthouse in the country, was built at the mouth of the Pasig River in 1846.

10. The Filipino Independiente, a circle of educated and rich Filipino nationalists, was the country's first social club established in Manila in 1898.

11. Hotel Oriente, a two-story building with 83 rooms in Binondo, is believed to be the first hotel built in the Philippines.

12. When it opened its doors in Plaza Moraga, Binondo in December 1899, Clarke's became the first ice cream parlor in the country.

13. The Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila is the first university in the Philippines to have its official name in Filipino.

14. Rizal Memorial Sports Complex located in Vito Cruz, Manila is the first sports stadium in the country.

15. On January 18, 1995, some four to five million people attended a pontifical mass officiated by Pope John Paul II at the Luneta Park. It was cited by the Guinness Book of World Records as the Biggest Papal Crowd. •

Figure it out

VILLALOBO
LUNGSOD NG MAY
IDALGO ST
NG MAYNILA

Edwin Bacasmas

1.58 million: Total population of Manila (2000)

636 sq. km: Total Metro Manila land area

38.55 sq. km: Total Manila land area

6: Number of congressional districts in Manila

897: Total number of barangays in Manila (2007)

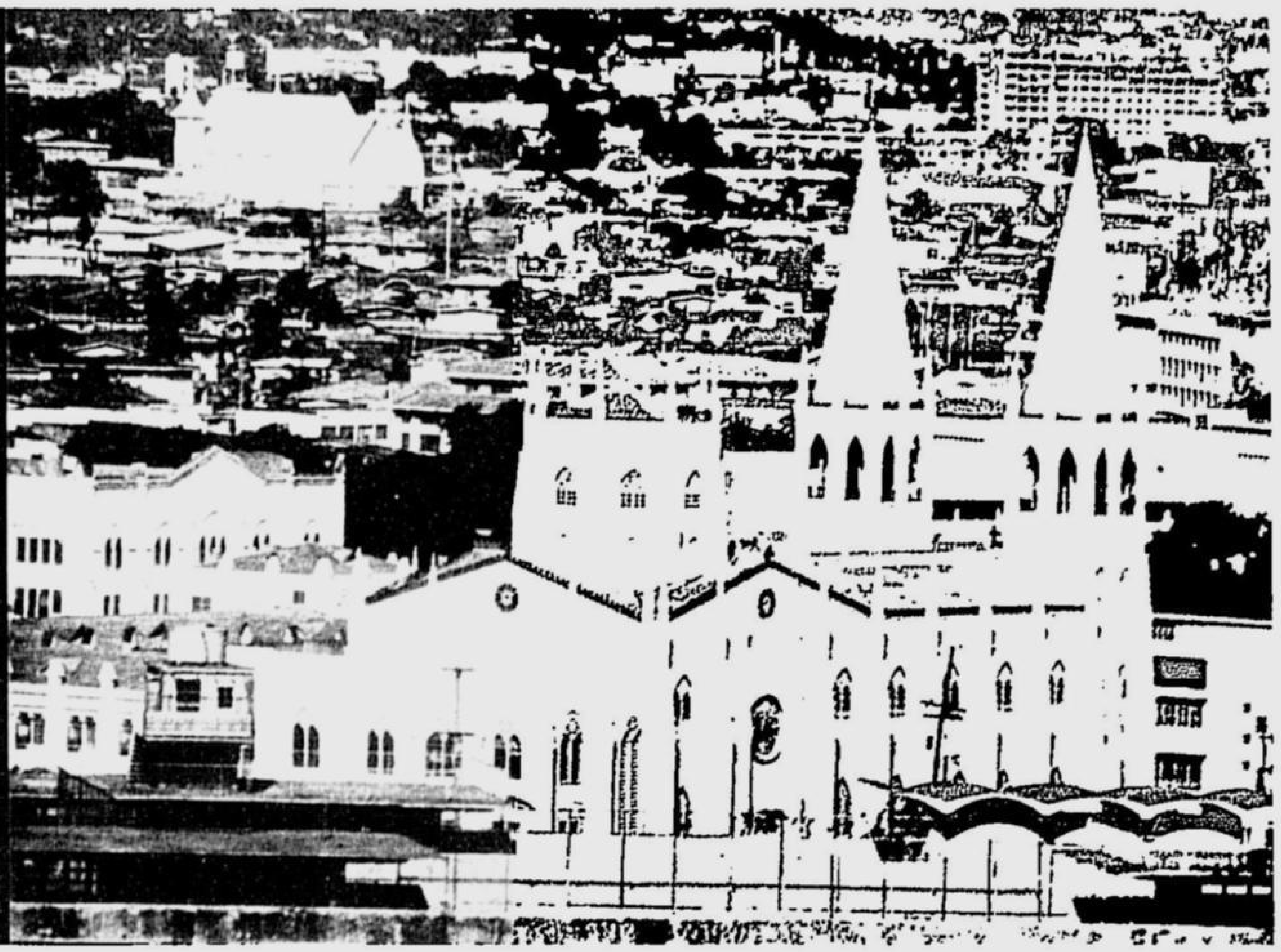
964,164: Total number of registered voters in Manila (2007)

Compiled by Kate Pedroso, Inquirer Research
Sources: National Statistics Office, Commission on Elections, Metro Manila Development Authority Official Website

By Tony Maghirang

First! Best! Most!

15 more reasons why the Ever-Loyal City is distinguished, way before the Guinness Book of World Records upped the competition



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5. The San Sebastian Church located at Plaza del Carmen, Quiapo is the first all-steel church in the Philippines and second in the world. It was prefabricated in Belgium and built from completely knocked-down parts in 1883.

6. Salon de Pertierra located at No. 12 Escolta was the first movie house in the country where on New Year's Day 1897, a short French film was shown through the efforts of a Spaniard named Pertierra.

7. Aside from Manila hemp or abaca, other world-renowned products bearing the name of the distinguished city are Manila cigars, Manila paper, and Manila envelopes.

8. In 1631, the Spanish government established and operated the first bakery in Manila.

9. The Farola, the first lighthouse in the country, was built at the mouth of the Pasig River in 1846.

10. The Filipino Independiente, a circle of educated and rich Filipino nationalists, was the country's first social club established in Manila in 1898.

11. Hotel Oriente, a two-story building with 83 rooms in Binondo, is believed to be the first hotel built in the Philippines.

12. When it opened its doors in Plaza Moraga, Binondo in December 1899, Clarke's became the first ice cream parlor in the country.

13. The Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila is the first university in the Philippines to have its official name in Filipino.

14. Rizal Memorial Sports Complex located in Vito Cruz, Manila is the first sports stadium in the country.

15. On January 18, 1995, some four to five million people attended a pontifical mass officiated by Pope John Paul II at the Luneta Park. It was cited by the Guinness Book of World Records as the Biggest Papal Crowd. •

Figure [illegible]

HIDALGO ST
NG MAYNILA
VILLALOBOS
NGSOD NG MAY

Edwin Bacasmas

1.58 million: Total population of Manila (2000)

636 sq. km: Total Metro Manila land area

38.55 sq. km: Total Manila land area

6: Number of congressional districts in Manila

897: Total number of barangays in Manila (2007)

964,164: Total number of registered voters in Manila (2007)

Compiled by Kate Pedroso, Inquirer Research

Sources: National Statistics Office, Commission on Elections, Metro Manila Development Authority Official Website

Text and photographs by Ivan Man Dy

Pucker up, peace out, wind down

Can you still find some peace and quiet in this cacophonous city? Where do you go for the cheapest eats? What are the best places for romance? Two Manila-philes reveal the bright secrets of this graying metropolis

THE old city remains young at heart. Here, you can find places to pucker up that won't cost you at all. Climb the Intramuros walls and watch the city go by. Sure you'll be sharing the place with a few lovestruck others but at least you spared yourself the madness of the malls. The stretch between Baluarte de San Diego and Puerta del Parian has the best views. Come during late afternoon and stay till you get shooed off by the guards.

If it's peace you want, head off to another world—the Chinese and American Cemeteries. The former, a virtual compendium of historic (and whimsical) architecture and the latter, a mini-Arlington right in the heart of the metropolis, are good places to contemplate life (and death). You can go bird-watching too. No practice driving though.

Aside from the ancient walls of Intramuros, time travellers who want to feel and smell Manila at the turn of the century can head towards the San Nicolas district beside Binondo and the nearby San Miguel district. San Nicolas is where one finds the last authentic examples of the *"bahay-na-bato"* architecture in the city, while the San Miguel district flaunts regal, patrician mansions from a gentler, not-too-distant past.

For a crash course on Philippine art and architecture, sneak into the Far Eastern University and get an impromptu feel-good-artistic moment right in the heart of the derelict University Belt! Everything's a visual feast in this super clean campus—from the beautifully restored Art-Deco buildings (by National Artist Pablo Antonio) to the distinctive brush strokes of Vicente Manansala and Carlos Botong Francisco. Recognized by Unesco for its commitment to heritage conservation, FEU is ideal for an afternoon stroll while learning a thing or two about art.

FAR EASTERN UNIVERSITY

Visual feast: From art deco (above) to turn-of-the-century houses (right)

If history's your particular interest, check out the city's three lesser-known yet exceptional museums: the Museum of Philippine Political History along T.M. Kalaw Street, which traces local political history from pre-colonial days up to present; the Calvo Museum on Escolta that tells the story of Manila's most famous street through historic memorabilia and scale-models, and the Malacañang Palace Museum at the Kalayaan Hall, whose exteriors speak of royalty indeed. The interiors are just as stunning with their period furnishings and sumptuous rooms, but no Imelda shoe collection (only 2 pairs are on display). Soak in the historic ambience of what is perhaps the city's most palatial but underappreciated government building.

Now if all that exploring has given you an appetite, head for Salazar/Benavidez street in the heart of Binondo. Of late, these old streets have transformed themselves into a Chinese foodie wonderland with their rows of culinary holes-in-the-walls. Walk through and check out the smorgasboard: hand-pulled noodle shops, vegetarian dishes, colorful pastries, historic mami joints—there's something for everyone, even for coffee lovers (there's a Gloria Jean's in the area). And if all else fails, there's always the Estero Hawker Center along Ongpin or the 168 mall food court.

And what tour of Manila would be complete without a view of its famous sunset? For the best view, hie off to the back of the Cultural Center. The Film Palace building gives one an unobstructed view of Manila Bay amidst those colossal Imeldific columns. Finish off your tour with a cheap and authentic Korean meal at the Kyong Buk Kong within the building, or catch the daily drag shows at night. •

Check out http://oldmanilawalks.blogspot.com to take Ivan Dy's guided tour of Manila

By Carlos Celdran

The City's Eight Best Kept Secrets

Manila's finest and where to find them

1. Best Secret Garden—Arroceros Forest Park

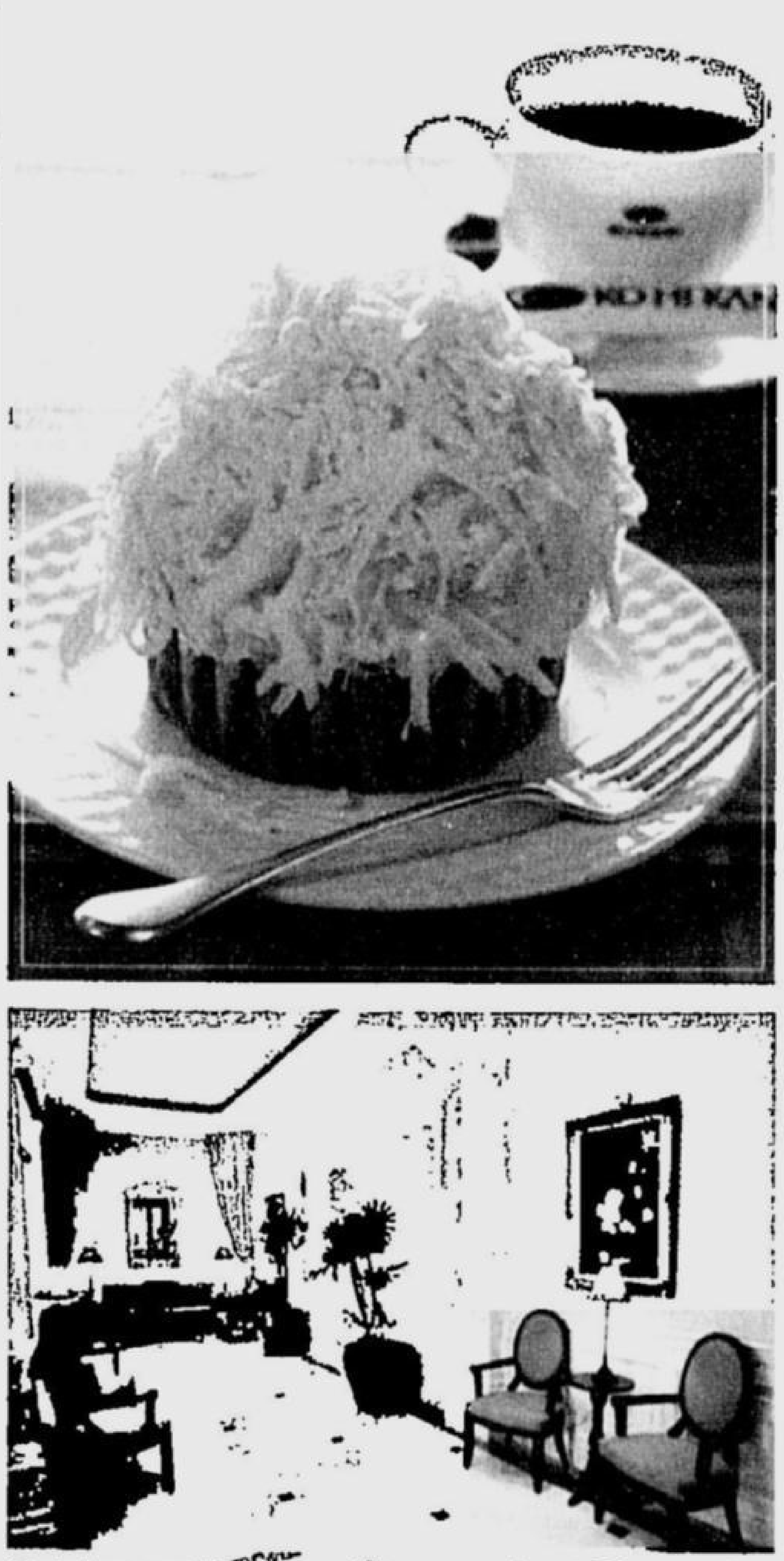
Snug by the MacArthur Bridge next to the Manila Metropolitan Theater in downtown Manila, the controversial Arroceros Forest Park is a calm oasis amidst the madness that is downtown Manila. And although the property was given to the City Schools of Manila Division during the term of former Mayor Lito Atienza, the park has recently been promised back by Mayor-elect Alfredo Lim to its former caretakers, the Winners Foundation. Environmentalists and cultural heritage advocates are delighted that the park will soon be re-opened and that the foundation can once again continue its efforts to re-green a lot that was once occupied by an office building until the '80s. No word yet on what will happen to the teachers who still hold office there.

2. Best Secret View of Old Manila—The Baluarte de San Diego

This spot, located at the southernmost corner of Intramuros, provides one of the most breathtaking views of Luneta Park and the Ermita district beyond. When within the walls, just walk over to the corner of Muralla and Sta. Lucia streets, enter the archway that leads into the garden, and you will find a little adobe staircase that will take you to the top of the walls. Best time to go is at sunset. Bring a bottle of wine and some cheese if you can and watch the sky change colors along with the rest of the university students who knew this secret well before we did.

3. Best Secret Shopping District—Rizal Avenue

Formerly the quintessential picture of urban blight, Rizal Avenue was retrofitted into a pedestrian-oriented retail zone in 2004 by the controversial Mayor Atienza. Today, hot dice *hopia*, vintage clothes, tools, electronics, *bolitas*, accessories, shoes, and housewares are all on sale inside the charming mid-20th century structures that line this promenade. And for those needing the conveniences of a mall, there is even a Chowking, a Goldilocks, a National Bookstore, and a Robinson's Supermarket if you are so inclined. Accessible by both LRT and MRT lines, it is a perfect example of how street life and commerce can work side by side. Really, why build more ugly energy-sucking malls when a pedestrian-friendly zone can spread the gravy among dozens of small businesses? But hurry; I hear Mayor Lim is planning to rip out the pavement and give the area back to the jeepneys soon.



Cuisine and culture: *Ensaymada* at Diamond Hotel's Kohikan coffee shop (top), and the art deco-inspired lobby of Orchid Garden Suites (above)

4. Best Secret Art Deco Rendezvous—Orchid Garden Suites

Located on Vito Cruz (now Pablo Ocampo) in the Malate district, Orchid Garden Suites is the perfect little boutique hotel that could. Formerly the Roces Mansion, this charming art deco treasure was adaptively re-used into a hotel almost ten years ago. And despite being Manila's first "boutique" hotel, the structure doesn't seem tired in the least. Their lobby is still as classy as ever, while all their 89 guestrooms have recently been refurbished to evoke that "Old Manila" feeling. The higher suites with a sunset view are perfect for a romantic getaway, while the conference facilities and close proximity to the PICC make it perfect for business meetings. Then there's the swimming pool and large rooms that make it ideal for family accommodations. Don't forget to drop by the groovy Tutso Bar at the top of the Mansion/Lobby wing. Perfect for happy hour if you are in the neighborhood. Orchid Garden Suites Manila is located at 620 Pablo Ocampo Sr. Street, Malate, Manila, Philippines Telephone No. 523-9870 523-9860 523-9836 http://orchidgardenhotel.com

5. Best Secret Bar—Oar House

Opened in 1978 by retired US navyman, Chuck Monroe, it is perhaps one of the last old school bars left in the rapidly changing Malate landscape. Now owned by a former regular, Nonoy Tan, the Oarhouse still lives up to its promise of serving warm food and cold beer to a new, much younger clientele. On any given night, you could catch a photo exhibit (it is fast becoming a photojournalist hangout), schmooze with actors from the Cultural Center, or chat up a Peace Corps Volunteer. Wilson, a Malate bartender from the days of Blue Cafe on Nakpil, is more than ready to share a friendly word, or mix a deadly Margarita. Leave the diet at home too. Their Pork Wiener Schnitzel and Balbacoa (bone marrow stew) are definitely worth the trip downtown. They also have a blog run by Ben, a dedicated habitue: www.oarhouse.blogspot.com

6. Best Secret Little Restaurant—Ambos Mundos

Aptly called Ambos Mundos (which means "both worlds"), this little restaurant is literally a combination of the past and the present, the east and the west, the Philippines and Spain. First opened in 1888 by Spanish immigrants, the Gaudinezes, Ambos Mundos could arguably be Manila's oldest restaurant (unless, of course, somebody knows another that's older). Originally located on Echague St. (now C. Palanca), right beside Plaza Goiti (now Plaza Lacson) it has since settled near the Rizal Avenue MRT-2 stop, near the corner of Florentino Torres and C. M. Recto Ave. (formerly Azcarraga). The menu is definitely Rizalian in flavor. Written on a chalk board out front, the selections are strictly old school Manila fare, a mix of Philippine and Iberian specialties with paella prices looking like they came from a long forgotten era as well. But aside from the Nick Joaquin chic decor: i.e., Spanish plates, bullfighting posters, carved narra details and capiz lamps, there's also the friendly staff and the San Mig that comes to

(continued on page 13)

By Eric S. Caruncho
Photographs by Edwin Bacasmas

The Quiapo Cinematheque

A mere five years after the area has become synonymous with bootleg DVDs, Quiapo has achieved what decades of city planning could not give it: a veneer of prosperity

DVD district: A potent mix of culture, faith and commerce (above). Bustling business (right)

INFORMATION wants to be free. Or at least, cheap. Nowhere is this dictum more apparent than in the bowels of Quiapo's Muslim district, now known to all and sundry as *"Deeveedee."*

When I first started frequenting the place five or so years ago, when pirated DVDs first came out, they cost P100 each. There was only a handful of ratty pirated DVD stalls huddled in a kind of *talipapa* along one block of Elizondo St. Out back was the porn section, a warren of dimly-lit cubicles with dirt floors, quite literally in the gutter, on which squatted the occasional naked urchin. It was a Dickensian experience, to say the least: Video Store of the Damned.

A few months later, the price had gone down to P80 per disc, and the stalls had multiplied exponentially, crossing Arlegui St. into the adjacent block.

In the ensuing months, the price went down further, to P60, and finally to P50 per disc. Two new buildings—with air-conditioning—had opened to serve the increasingly upmarket clientele for the bootleg discs. Then a couple more. And a few more.

Today, the *"deeveedee"* district spans several blocks running southward from R. Hidalgo St. all the way to the Golden Mosque in Globo de Oro, with DVDs that go for as low as P40 per disc, three discs for a hundred.

When I first started frequenting the area, it was, quite frankly, a pestilential slum, reputed to be a refuge for pickpockets, holdup men and all manner of unsavory characters. For the slumming suburbanite, that was part of the thrill, actually, as was the excitement offered by the occasional raid by agents of the Videogram Regulatory Board.

Today, a mere five years of the bootleg trade have given the area what decades of development planning by the city government have not: a veneer of prosperity. The traders have graduated from scooters to AUVs, and a service industry of sorts has emerged to serve the resident population: convenience stores, halal restaurants, hotels. (I am just waiting for Starbucks and a foot spa to set up shop.)

I know, I know. Video piracy is killing the movie industry. But it's also sustaining a growing community of migrants who depend on the trade for their livelihood. One "expose" by a TV network even suggested that the pickpockets, holdup men and other unsavory characters mentioned earlier have shifted to selling DVDs which, I suppose, is a good thing, or at least the lesser of two evils.

A friend of mine, a noted film director who shall remain anonymous here for obvious reasons, calls the district the "Quiapo Cinematheque," presumably because whatever else it might be, Quiapo is a haven for the discerning cineaste.

The Cinematheque Francaise was where the directors of the French nouvelle vague—the likes of Truffaut, Godard and Rohmer—cut their teeth on Hollywood classics, world cinema and American B-movies alike. It is the Parthenon of film geekdom, celebrated in that scene from Bernardo Bertolucci's "The Dreamers" where the heroes watch a screening of Jean Luc Godard's "Band of Outsiders" at the Cinematheque and reenact a scene from the movie at the Louvre. (Incidentally, I have both films on DVD, bootlegs naturally).

It's only an educated guess, but the next generation of Filipino filmmakers is, very

(continued on page 12)

FEATURE

By Allison W. Lopez

Watch Out, Dirty Harry's Back!

Manila Mayor-elect Alfredo Lim vows to clean up the city and restore it to its place as a cradle of culture. Next target: the Baywalk on Roxas Blvd. where a liquor ban and a children's playground are in the offing

The long arm of the law: Lim promises peace and order to young constituents

"COOPERATE or evaporate."

This warning from Manila mayor-elect Alfredo Siojo Lim should be enough to send shivers down the spine of petty criminals, cell phone snatchers, holduppers and drug pushers who, if they know what's good for them, should start cleaning up their act.

Because Lim, also known as the country's own "Dirty Harry" for his no-nonsense approach to crime, is definitely back and certainly means business.

The 77-year-old two-term Manila mayor from 1992-1998 earned controversy (some might say, notoriety) for his spray-painting campaign against suspected drug pushers and for cracking down on prostitution in Ermita's red-light district. Detractors described the former Manila police chief's actions as a violation of human rights, but Lim was quick to counter: "How about the rights of victims which are wantonly violated? Who are the law-abiding citizens anyway? Those who criticized are misinformed," says Lim, a lawyer.

The spray painting, he adds, was the "most effective campaign" against drug pushers at a time when possession of an illegal substance up to 200 grams was still bailable. Besides, says Lim, he only sprayed red paint on houses where the suspects had already been arrested and charged with drug trafficking.

As for the girlie bars, Lim claims he was only protecting minors who were pushed into the flesh trade. "The bar owners filed 113 injunctions against me but I was vindicated." In the end, he adds, they had to flee Manila, "*naglipatan sila* (they transferred elsewhere)." His vision of a clean, wholesome city remains, declares Lim, who is targeting Manila's famous Baywalk next. Expect a ban on liquor and scantily clad women dancing on this lighted strip along Roxas Boulevard, he says. A family atmosphere is what he's aiming for, says Lim, with more animal sculptures like tigers and alligators joining the huge dinosaur display on the sidewalk. Oh, and did we say he wanted ice cream parlors, too?

Cultivating a softer and more wholesome image seems to be a priority as well with the man. His condominium unit cum office in Manila is austere and rather spare, save for some framed snapshots of his favorite newsmaking moments: the meeting of police and army officers, including Brig. Gen. Fidel Ramos, during the 1986 Edsa Revolt; the burning of pornographic materials as the late Cardinal Sin watched; a police operation with his men where Lim is shown holding a gun, and of course, the infamous spray-painting.

Describing himself as an action man, Lim claims he was uneasy in the Senate crafting bills when he could get things moving on the ground. "In the Senate, it would take a long while before a bill could be passed, so the problem would persist, unlike in the executive where you can immediately address a problem once it's brought to you," he explains.

Case in point: Just two weeks after his official proclamation, Lim ordered the return of the Jose Abad Santos High School to its former location on General La Chambre Street in Binondo, which has been declared by the National Historical Institute as part of the historical "Cuartel Meisic."

The move, he says, is meant to focus attention on Manila as a city rich in culture. To this end, Lim has vowed to continue the renovation efforts on the Metropolitan Theater, an art-deco gem, and to create more green areas starting with the reopening of the Arroceros Park to the public.

(continued on page 15)

By Leica R. Carpo
Photographs by Eddie Boy Escudero

not The Last Tango in Manila

This Fil-Am dancer and commercial model considers dancing his true passion. But romance isn't too far behind

"I'D dance for no money," says future heartthrob Kenny Waymack.

For his sake, one hopes the growing list of advertisers who offer him modeling jobs don't hold him to this because the 24-year-old Fil-Am performer has a long line of partners waiting to fill in his dance card—for a fee. Coming from a family of performers, Waymack's initial foray onstage was as back-up dancer for his sister. Multi-talented and a looker, he got his big break when he got a "call back" for Tokyo Disney Resort's "Mystic Rhythms."

"It was like Tokyo Disney opened a door for me; after that the jobs just kept coming!" he recounts. The show gained him entry into glitzy Mirage Hotel in Las Vegas and helped him clinch first place in the country's popular TV dance competition "Shall We Dance."

Waymack's extensive training which, he claims, is still ongoing runs the gamut from in-line skating, stunt performing, stage combat, ballet, jazz, modern, hip-hop and martial arts-capoeira. He's that capoeira instructor whose student overpowers him in a 2006 Modess ad. Most recently, 'his dashing good looks' got him the lead in the ad for allergy medicine Claritin that showed him proposing amidst a flower field in Tagaytay.

Though break dancing is where his true passion lies, Waymack claims that his heart can get just as caught up when dancing an 'adage/pas de deux,' He explains: "Just thinking about the music, the sensuality, the eye contact, the sweat, each romantic element bringing you to a different place—you could easily fall in love with your partner because for that moment, it's all real."

Romancing the moment: Grey and Waymack

Waymack, who considers himself a seven in a romantic scale of eight, says his idea of a proposal would definitely involve a show and most probably a dance. He is actually toying with the idea of proposing during a show, he reveals. "I would love to stop a show and propose to my girl in front of a live audience. Of course once she 'hopefully' accepts—the show must go on..."

A romantic but also a true professional, Waymack once slipped and cut his leg all the way to the shinbone during a skate show. After having his leg bandaged, the dancer continued his stunt, unmindful of the injury. "I find it funny how other performers sometimes complain about costumes or make-up because I sometimes dance despite the pain. In fact, I use the pain to dance harder—I love performing."

Unlike other young wannabes of mixed parentage, Waymack isn't banking on his good looks to shoot to Pinoy stardom. He prefers to do it using his skills as a dancer/performer. "I have a lot to offer and if I become famous just because of my looks, I don't think it's right."

While Waymack regularly leaves the country for gigs abroad and still considers Florida his home, he admits that he has not exactly been immune to the charms of the country. He harbors a growing fondness for Manila, he confesses, especially places like Baywalk in Roxas Blvd. where the SIM cover was shot. "I like this place, I love being in crowds, I love the ocean—the sound of the waves, the wind—it can be quite romantic."

Well now, that may just be the best endorsement for this world-weary city. •

A dance in the (Rizal) Park

GINA JANE GREY

Our cover girl, dance instructor Gina Jane Grey finds Argentinian ballroom dancing most romantic but says other forms of dance like ballet, jazz and flamenco produce their own romanticism depending on the choreography and the execution. "A little dancing can make any significant moment or event more romantic," says Grey. If you would like to know more about adding romance into your life through dance or are looking for a fun and sexy workout, log on to her site **www.ginajanegrey.com** for class schedules and contact numbers. Her studio is located in Rockwell Makati. •

SUDOKU

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

			9			7		
	1		3	7		2	6	
9	2							
							3	8
	5						1	
3	7							
							2	1
	8	3		6	2		7	
		5			8			

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 6/24

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Answer to previous puzzle

2	9	8	3	4	6	1	7	5
5	1	6	9	7	2	3	4	8
4	3	7	5	8	1	9	2	6
8	5	9	7	6	3	4	1	2
3	6	2	4	1	5	8	9	7
7	4	1	8	2	9	6	5	3
1	8	5	2	3	4	7	6	9
6	2	3	1	9	7	5	8	4
9	7	4	6	5	8	2	3	1

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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The Quiapo Cinematheque (from page 9)

likely, receiving the bulk of their education in cinema from bootleg DVDs, rather than from film school or Mowelfund or the occasional embassy screening as used to be the case. And just as Quentin Tarantino educated himself by working as a clerk at a video store and watching every piece-of-crap tape that looked interesting, these movie geeks could show us something tomorrow that we've never seen before.

One thing that anti-piracy advocates neglect to mention is the appalling lack of choice of titles in legit DVDs. Go to any legit video store and chances are, all you'll get is mainstream Hollywood product.

Not so at the Quiapo Cinematheque.

The sheer diversity of bootleg product is staggering: there are stalls specializing in anime, film classics, concert videos and music films, telenovelas, and of course, porn. Cost aside, the strength of the Quiapo Cinematheque lies in its total promiscuity: slick Hollywood product, cheapo trash, undisputed classics of world cinema: it's all there, uncut. There's only your own inner censor to draw the line. In a couple of years of shopping in Quiapo, I've managed to make up for 20 years of being too lazy to go to those Alliance Francaise or Goethe Institut screenings. French new wave? Italian neo-realism? Film noir? Hong Kong action? '70s Japanese bondage films? Zombie cannibal splatterfests? Korean romcoms? Silent films? Got 'em.

The deeveedee district is also one of the few places in the city where the mainstream Christian populace can have a close encounter with their Muslim brethren, even if it's only their DVD "*suki*." In a society where Islam still represents the extreme of "otherness," such cross-cultural meetings are few and far between. Who knows what effect these small transactions might have on future relations between the faiths?

Of course, with the global media conglomerates pressuring the US government to crack down on Intellectual Property (IP) pirates worldwide, all this could vanish just as quickly as it came to be. As technology advances and broadband services improve and become more accessible, optical media might just become obsolete. Illegal downloads might overtake illegal discs as the IP police's chief headache.

Information, after all, wants to be free. Or at least, cheap. •

Eddie Boy Escudero

Suite 601 of G Hotel, one of Manila's most romantic rooms

G Hotel

Experience personalized service amidst contemporary black-and-white lobby and interiors by world-renowned architect Gerry Contreras. All rooms include internet access, cable television, pay per view, a pantry, and complete bath amenities. Aside from room service from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m., G Hotel Manila also offers a unique 24-hour butler service. Contact details: www.g-hotel.com.ph; Tel. No. (632)-5250888 •

The City's 8 Best Kept Secrets (from page 7)

the table ice cold and immediately.

7. **Best Secret Snack—The Diamond Hotel Ensaymada**
Although the hotel itself has been looking kinda faded of late, it can still draw in a crowd. Not a bad feat considering that it's a 15-year-old hotel that has not undergone any major refurbishing at all. It must be the *ensaymadas* at the Kohikan Cafe on the lobby level that keep everyone coming back for more. Generous in size, perfectly fluffy, smeared with ube and dripping with butter, it is perhaps the most insane *ensaymada* served this side of the South China Sea. So sinful is this pastry I feel almost guilty telling you about it. Have it toasted till the top is brown and take it with a cup of Kohikan coffee just to push the experience over the edge. http://www.diamondhotel.com/

8. **Best Little Museum—The Gamaba Museum**
Located on the fourth floor of Tesoro's Handicraft Shop on A. Mabini in Ermita, this one-room display honors the life and achievements of the National Living Artists Awardees of the Philippines (Gawad sa Manlilikha ng Bayan or Gamaba). Drop in and learn the life and techniques of such traditional artists as master blacksmith Eduardo Mutuc and Bagobo master weavers Lang Dulay, Salinta Monon and Haja Amina Appi. You could also check out the history of T'boli tinalak, or Hanunuo Mangyan script - including the ambahan poetry by apprentices of the late Ginaw Bilog, while perusing authentic Maguindanaon kutyapi lutes and Yakan gongs by musical geniuses Samaon Sulaiman and Uwang Ahadas. And if you like what you see, Tesoro's also sells their works downstairs with the proceeds going directly to apprenticing a new generation of traditional artists. Monday to Saturday from 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. and on Sundays from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Ask the sales ladies on the ground floor to assist you. Tesoro Building is located at 1325 A. Mabini Street, Ermita, Manila, Telephone: 524-3936 to 40. •

Log on to www.celdrantours.blogspot.com for Carlos Celdran's walking tours of Manila

M-m-m-m-my Manila! (from page 8)

Spread at La Cocina de Tita Moning (left); Flowers at Dangwa (above)

Pied Piper. That's Carlos Celdran, who educated and entertained us as our guide during one of his famous Manila walking tours. Intramuros is also rich with history and heritage, with sites like Fort Santiago, the San Agustin Church, Manila Cathedral and Puerta Real. If these walls could talk! I am so glad that the perimeter walls were restored so locals and tourists alike can experience walking along them."—**Janine Cuenca-Dario**, *publisher and editor-in-chief, 24/7 Magazine* •

From the Heart of Manila... (from page 2)

5. **People v. Cabalquinto (19 September 2006, Tinga, J.).** The High Court directed that to protect the privacy of women and child victims, their names should be concealed and withheld in its decisions although these have become public records. Instead, fictitious names shall be used, and personal circumstances of the victim-survivors or any other information tending to establish or compromise their identities, as well as those of their immediate family or household members, shall likewise be withheld.

6. **Lambino v. Commission on Elections (25 October 2006, Carpio, J.).** The Court, by a hairline vote of 8-7, upheld the decision of the Comelec and denied the people's initiative to change the Constitution, stressing that the Constitution only allows amendments through a people's initiative, and not an entire revision which may be done only through a constituent assembly or a constitutional convention.
7. **Bantay Republic Act or BA-RA 7941 v. Commission on Elections (4 May 2007, Garcia, J.).** In a unanimous decision, the Court ordered the Comelec to immediately disclose and release the names of the nominees of groups or organizations accredited to participate in the party-list elections of 2007, citing the need for voters to be informed about matters that have a bearing on their choice.

To mark the High Court's anniversary, the 22nd Chief Justice Reynato S. Puno dispensed with the traditional parade and fanfare, and instead directed the Court officials and employees to engage in community-oriented activities to highlight the theme "Celebrating 106 Years of Serving the People." Among these activities were the following:

- Involvement in community and house-building activities of Gawad Kalinga's "GK777" Project in Baseco Compound, Tondo

- One-day livelihood training on micro business opportunities for residents of Barangay 707, Zone 77 in Malate, Manila, who had lost their homes and belongings in an October 2006 fire.

- An outreach program conducted by the Offices of the Associate Justices, led by Senior Associate Justice Leonardo A. Quisumbing and Justice Ma. Alicia Austria-Martinez, in the Pediatrics Ward of the Philippine General Hospital (PGH) in Manila.

- Jail visitations in Metro Manila conducted by volunteers from the Office of the Court Administrator (OCA), led by Court Administrator Christopher O. Lock.

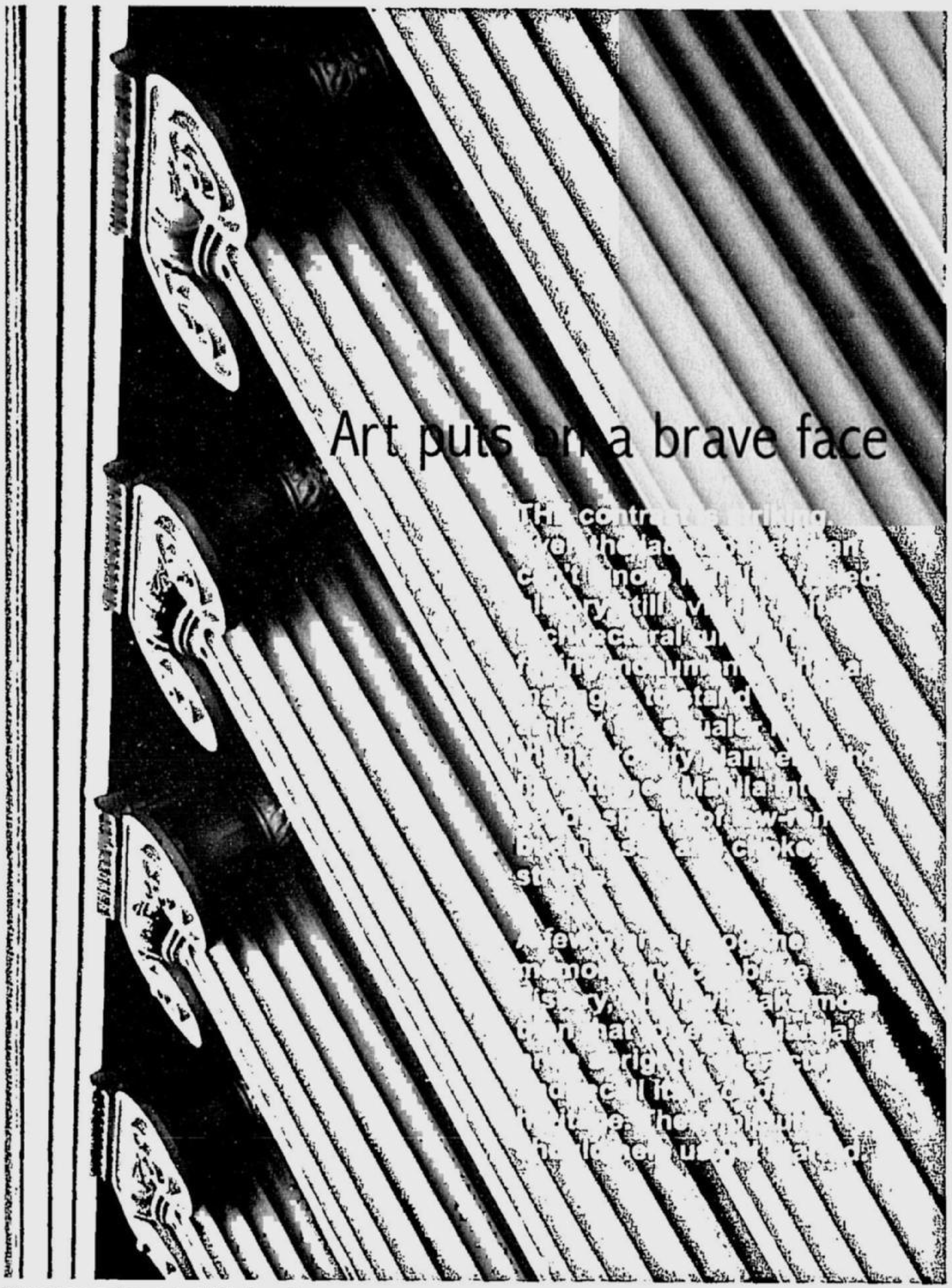
- Tree-planting at the La Mesa Dam Watershed in Novaliches, Quezon City

- Spending the day with children housed at the Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity orphanage in Delpan, Binondo.

- Joining Child-Hope Asia Philippines in gathering 50 street children from different areas of Manila and distributing food and medical supplies among them.

- Volunteers from the Office of the Bar Confidant, Philippine Judicial Academy, Judicial and Bar Council, Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Office, and the Library, Printing, and Medical Services also visited the Payatas Dump Site in Quezon City to provide free medical and child day care services. •

Photographs by Edwin Bacasmas



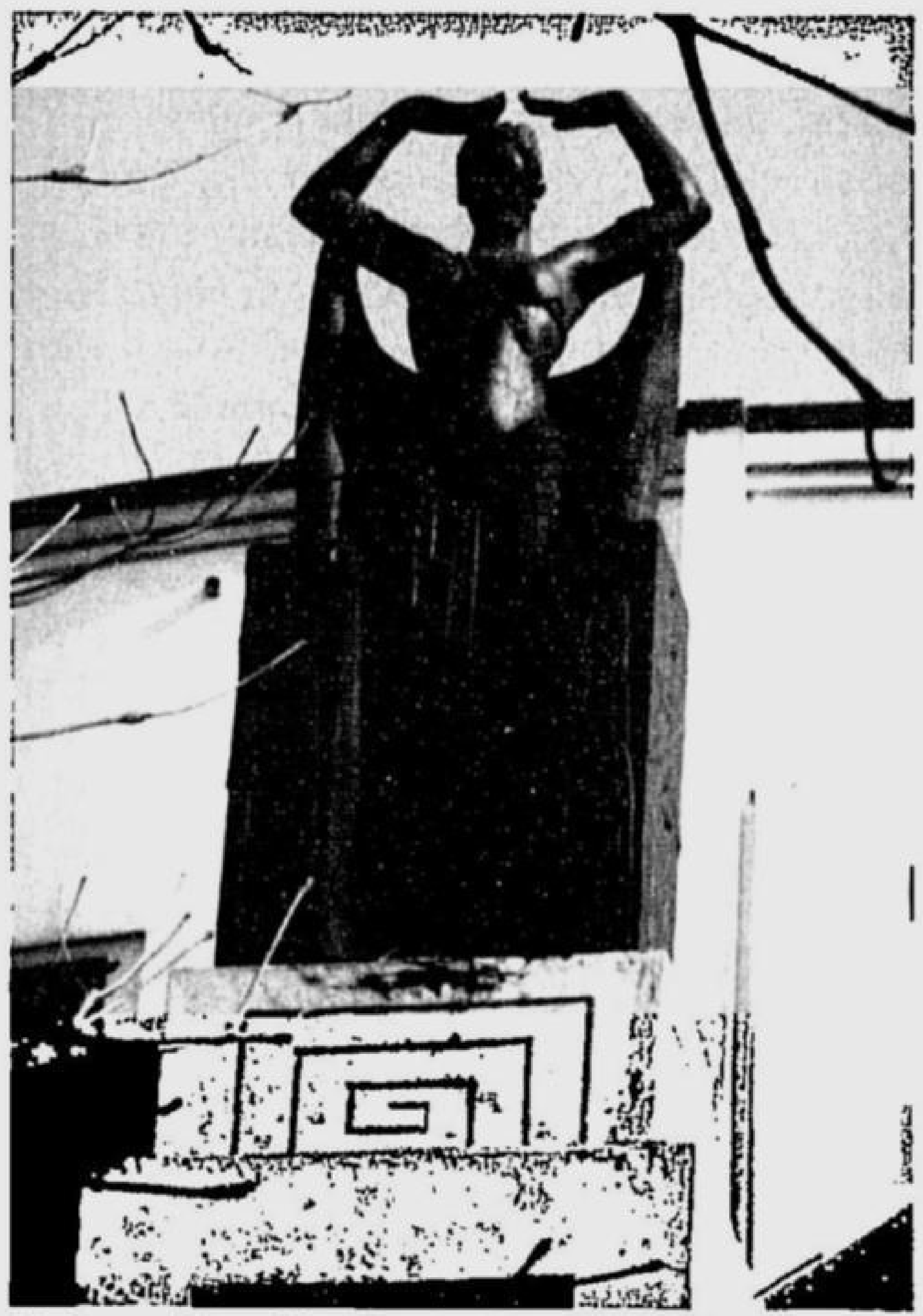
Art puts on a brave face

THE contrast is striking. [illegible] the [illegible] can't [illegible] none [illegible] history still [illegible] architectural [illegible] monuments [illegible] standing [illegible] squalor [illegible] city [illegible] Manila [illegible] of low-rent [illegible] choked streets.

A few [illegible] memo[illegible] history [illegible] make more [illegible] right [illegible] heritage [illegible]

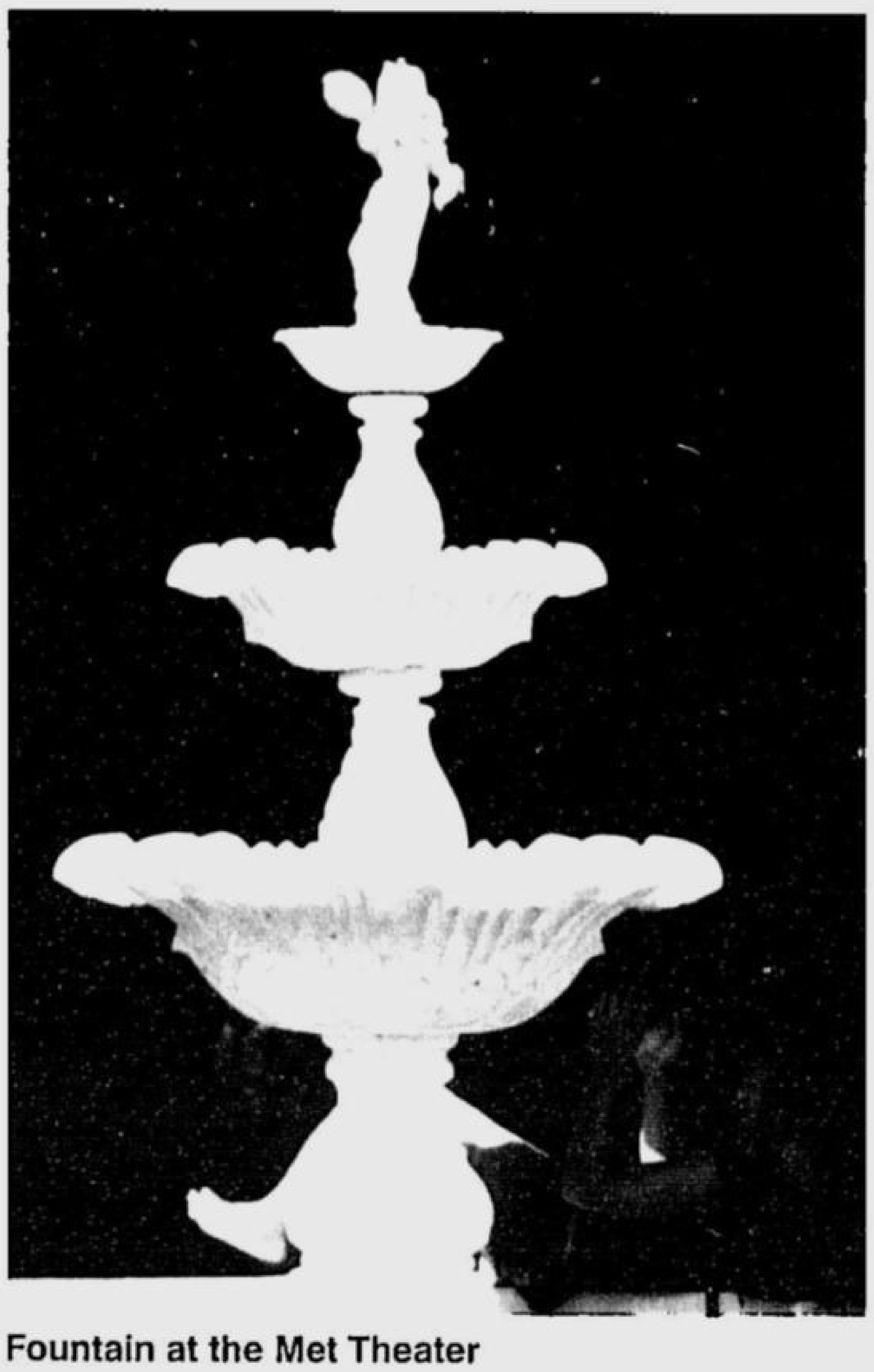
Grecian columns at Philpost

Mosaic art at the National Press Club at the foot of Jones Bridge



Metropolitan Theater in Liwasang Bonifacio

Recalling another century at Intramuros



Fountain at the Met Theater

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WATERY eyes and sniffles are expected at weddings. But only when triggered by emotions and not allergens.

Unfortunately, weddings can easily trigger allergies. Pollen from floral bouquets and arrangements, dust from the centuries-old Church ornaments and cigarette smoke from guests can suddenly bring on a fit of sneezing, nose blowing or scratching that can ruin the solemnity of the occasion.

The good news is that allergens can be controlled. Here's how to handle the risk of being exposed to allergens on that special day:

- Choose large, brightly colored flowers like roses for wedding accents as their pollen is less likely to cause allergy symptoms.

- Know that outdoor weddings can expose you and your guests to more allergens due to airborne pollen from grasses, trees and weeds.

- Couples should consider the seasonal triggers for allergens when planning their wedding date and honeymoon since different plants pollinate at different times of the year.

- New locations may mean new allergens couples who opt to get married abroad, or guests traveling for a wedding should check the pollen count in their destination.

- If you are prone to allergies, have an antihistamine on hand to relieve you of your allergy symptoms. Try Claritin (loratadine), with Formula 15-24-0 to give you relief in as fast as 15 minutes. It also lasts up to 24 hours with virtually no drowsiness.

- Do not wait until the week of the wedding to start thinking about allergies. Visit a physician for proper diagnosis and potential treatment options.

Take total control of your allergies on your wedding day. It's your special moment. Cry tears of joy, not tears of allergy symptoms. •

Watch Out, Dirty Harry's Back! (from page 10)

Baywalk bliss

But, he adds, another heritage building, the Jai Alai, would have to go because the former gambling spot "does not convey good memories." It will serve better as a Hall of Justice, he says, the new home of Manila's regional trial courts which are currently squeezed into the old City Hall.

The mayor also considers part of his unfinished business in Manila the construction of two public hospitals, one in District 3 (San Nicolas, Binondo, Sta. Cruz) and another in District 6 (Sta. Mesa, Pandacan, Sta. Ana). The four other districts have already been given public hospitals of their own, he says.

And though Lim isn't exactly a techie, preferring a quiet life without the ubiquitous cell phone, he says he believes in offering classes on call center training and nursing. "I'll open six technical and vocational schools, one per district, so the poor won't end up as janitors, messengers, street sweepers. They deserve a fighting chance through their skills," he says.

Activists will also have a field day once Lim reopens Mendiola to rallies, while jeepney drivers will welcome the reopening of Avenida, which was closed to traffic and converted to a pedestrian lane.

But peace and order remains his centerpiece, Lim says. "(My vision of Manila is) a city that will be safe to live in for people to have peace of mind." With a zero crime rate, more businesses will open up as investors will regain confidence in the city.

Three years short of turning 80, the new Manila mayor is no longer as young as in his days as a police officer trading bullets with criminals. And it will certainly take more than just bombast and tough words for him to reach out to the thousands of destitute Manilans in Parola and Baseco in Tondo, or in Smokey Mountain.

And so Manila waits with bated breath: Can the country's Dirty Harry clean up the city and restore it to its former glory? On the answer lies the city's future. •

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Dosage and Administration: Adults and children 12 years of age and over; one tablet once daily. If symptoms persist, consult your doctor.

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